

NARRATIVE
OF
ACKWORTH CENTENARY
1879.

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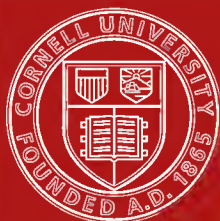
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MARY HODGSON.

EDMUND EVANS.

ACKWORTH SCHOOL.—FROM A FIELD NEAR THE OLD BATH.

A NARRATIVE
OF
THE PROCEEDINGS
AT THE
CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENARY
OF

ACKWORTH SCHOOL,

26th and 27th of Sixth Month, 1879,

EDITED BY

JAMES HENRY BARBER.

ALSO

A Sketch of the Life of Dr. Fothergill,

By JAMES HACK TUKE;

AND

A short Sketch of the History of Ackworth School,

By JOHN S. ROWNTREE;

WITH

*A nearly verbatim report of the Speeches delivered at the
two Meetings.*

PUBLISHED BY
THE CENTENARY COMMITTEE, ACKWORTH SCHOOL.

1879.

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PREFACE.

I THINK it is Hugh Miller who records that, when a farmer's boy, he was sent by his master to a pond or stream, with a litter of puppies judged to belong to the superfluous canine multitude.

Instead of executing his commission, or rather charge, he straightway ran home, explaining his arrival there to his father's household, by exclaiming, "I could na droon the wee doggies."

I have been reminded of the story whilst tenderly regarding my superfluous reminiscences of our recent happy festival at Ackworth, and should have been glad to escape from the situation by casting on some one else the task of putting an end to them.

Alas! they have been permitted to survive, and hence the prolixity of the following narrative.

J. H. B.

12th August, 1879.

THE NARRATIVE.

THE 26th and 27th of Sixth Month, 1879, were joyful and memorable days in the annals of Ackworth School! For Ackworth had collected around her her sons and daughters from far and near, to keep holiday, and commemorate her Hundredth Anniversary. With the many years of her past, with her future, as we fondly trust, to be still more successful than the past, she met the present with a smile of hope, as she welcomed the throng of her children of every age. And truly they were of almost every age, from the venerable old man in his ninth decade, to the young scholar not yet emerged from the first. Joyous youth, active manhood, womanhood, and grey-headed age were there, all claiming the kindred tie of Ackworth scholarship. Yet, large as were the numbers of those assembled, they were but the few compared with the full muster-roll of her vast peaceful army—nearly 10,000 in all—100 a-year pouring in and out for 100 years. And how many, the vast majority indeed, of Ackworth scholars, have already been gathered to their fathers! May we not humbly trust that a large proportion of these have realised the full, the eternal, value of the religious lessons, and the Christian training of Ackworth's faithful preceptors? How many distant Friends were thinking of these days who were unable to form part of the assembly: for Ackworth scholars are scattered over the face of the earth in almost every land where the Anglo-Saxon race has wandered, and its colonists are found.

There had been many months of careful preparation and anxious thought, for it was not easy to foresee the number who would be present, or fitly to provide for their comfort. It was also desired that the Centenary days might be marked with a "white stone," some memento of the love and interest of the old scholars, which should benefit the scholars of to-day, and of the years to come.

THE GENERAL MEETING GATHERING.

Ackworth General Meeting is eminently a joyous gathering. Occurring at Midsummer, when days are at the longest, attracting as it does so many young people; the anticipation of the coming holidays giving a bright tone to the scholars; with not a few happy re-unions of parents and children, brothers, sisters, and relatives, some of the last-named reviving the pleasant cousinships of school-days, wherein "distance lends enchantment to the view;" the General Meeting, despite its formal examinations, is at all times a lively anniversary. But there was a Centenary atmosphere around this General Meeting manifest from the first. It was larger than usual. It also, as a whole, looked younger. Nevertheless its personal appearance had undergone a marked change on the evening of Fifth-day, the 26th. Omnibuses, wagonettes, and carriages of every description, had come pouring in from Normanton, Pontefract, Featherstone, and Hemsworth stations, laden with closely-packed passengers—and all available lodgings were at least fully occupied.

There was one circumstance deserving a passing notice. Some disappointment was felt that the new line of railway from Swinton to York, which has a station at Ackworth, had not been opened for general traffic, for it was about to be so in a few days ; but the Company ran trains from York, and one from Sheffield, to this General Meeting, the first passenger trains which had ever reached the village. It was interesting thus to associate with the hundredth anniversary of the School the direct railway communication so long greatly needed, and pleasant to consider that it would be available to convey the children to their homes at the approaching and future vacations.

The thoughts of Friends went back to the far-off days when the journey of a child from Cornwall, or Scotland, was made under circumstances so different. For the early days of the school (before those of MacAdam) not only long preceded the first railway train, but the first of those swift and well-appointed coaches which, though we are apt to compare them disparagingly with present facilities, were nevertheless a wonderful advance on the lumbering vehicles, traversing bad roads, which conveyed the first Ackworth scholars from their homes. And not a few of these homes were distant ones. The first two scholars on the list came from Poole, in Dorsetshire, the fifty-ninth and sixtieth were from Montrose, in the far North. Swansea, Redruth, Marazion, and Aberdeen, each contributed its quota within the next three or four years. Fifteen years after this, a traveller tells us that he "left the town of Gosport at one o'clock in the morning in the 'Telegraph,' then considered a fast coach, arriving at the Golden Cross, Charing Cross, at eight in the evening, thus occupying nineteen hours in

travelling eighty miles, being at the rate of rather more than four miles an hour." Let us imagine our little Quaker boy or girl then travelling the 300 or 400 miles from Scotland or Cornwall, first by one conveyance and then another. Still, in this world of compensations, the clouds not unfrequently have a silver lining. When a journey took three or four days and nights, how abounding were the hospitalities and the fatherly and motherly love of the good Friends on the route; how warm the sympathy for the low-spirited boy or girl leaving a far-off home and its dear associations, to enter in amongst a large community of strangers, and to be at school probably for several years without one vacation, sometimes without even a visit from kinsfolk, in many cases with a very rare one. Letters, too, were expensive, and carefully read over by the School authorities. Truly, in many respects, our forefathers were an enduring race compared with this generation.

We are tempted to glance at the proceedings of the General Meeting, apart from the special anniversary, for we hope this period may have an interest for future scholars, and generations of Friends.

THE MEETING OF THE FRIENDS' PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.

The prelude to the other meetings is, with some apparent singularity, the annual gathering of the Directors and members of a national business Institution. Friends have always been provident in character, laying up for their children, and minding the proverb about a "rainy day," hence

a Life Assurance Society has grown up in their midst. Solid, steady-going, and quietly prosperous, the Friends' Provident Institution has selected, as its place of annual gathering and yearly report, the General Meeting of Ackworth School, thus bringing in amongst the religious, academical, and social elements, its contribution of financial interest, and its reminder to young Friends and old, that it is well to make suitable provision in time of health.

As the Friends are arriving then, on the 'Third-day afternoon and evening, the Directors of the Friends' Provident Institution are gathering too, filling the galleries of the Meeting-house, a somewhat elderly, staid looking set of men, evidently full of facts. Truly anybody having a predisposition to "assure," would be confirmed therein by the demeanour, so quiet and grave, of the Directors, grouped about their Chairman. The constituency this year is more than usually lively, for it has been suggested to change, for once, the locality of the annual meeting; and no bees, whose accustomed hive has had a shake, could more promptly buzz around the mover, than do the assembled members. They are assuredly a Conservative body. Let them henceforth be left alone to hold their convocations at Ackworth.

But we are annalists, and perhaps someone in 1979—if Dr. Cumming be fallacious—may like to know the high-water mark of the Friends' Provident Institution of the present day. We are informed by the Report, that the accumulated fund (the assured hope of its policy holders) has reached to about £1,400,000. On the 20th of Eleventh Month last the office had in existence 5,330 policies, for assurance on lives, amounting to £4,237,914; 205 endowments, amounting to nearly £42,000, and it paid in annuities

more than £16,000. It had issued 354 new policies during the preceding year. Its yearly income was £151,927, viz., from premiums £91,504, and from investments £60,423, whilst it had increased its accumulated fund in the year by £37,120. Let us now cease to be "figurative," and leave the assured to reappoint their old Directors; in order to have a look at the Friends still pouring in, who intend to glance round the School before retiring to their lodgings for the night.

THIRD-DAY EVENING.

Friends from everywhere are meeting, often after the lapse of years, many for the first time since they were school-fellows. Birthright membership may be open to some objections, but it undoubtedly adds a charm to the General Meeting at Ackworth. How warm are the greetings, how bright the smiles, of the Friends! This year the School grounds wear a novel aspect, and one wishes specially to have a view of them. Over the vestibule door, upon the centre and on each wing, some sturdy flag-poles had been erected. From these were flying a dozen large national flags, principally the British ensign and the union jack. Let us hope that Dr. Fothergill, could he have foreseen the result of his labours, would not have forbidden them to wave in glad commemoration.

Through the afternoon and evening, the refreshment tent in the little field behind the central building has had its streams of peeping visitors. With its grassy carpet, and the

fresh air blowing through it, windowless of course, but light enough this June day, the tent has afforded a pleasantly novel place for the cup of tea, whilst the wide unoccupied spaces and tables give promise of room when a larger number of visitors arrive to try its full capabilities. Moreover it is tolerably water-tight, an evident necessity.

But there are many other objects of interest. The younger men Friends mingle in the sports of the boys, take a turn at cricket, or try their jumping powers. The older ones, once scholars, wander to every familiar nook and recall their youthful days. A very few perhaps there may be

‘ Who moralise on the decay,
Of Ackworth boys in modern day ;’

but with most, the pleasant smile and accompanying little group of boys, tell rather of cheery comparisons and pleasant recollections. One such veteran endeavours to verify the old place as he knew it, and to point out its changes. Let us join him, and listen to his remarks. “The old entrance to the School,” he says, “is altered; long and narrow as it was, and flanked by two walls, looking very like the approach to a prison. On the right there was the bakehouse. Didn’t we like to be bakers’ assistants, and taste the new delightfully smelling bread? On the left there was a door which opened into the court where were the shoemakers’ and tailors’ shops. Sometimes we were shoemakers’ and tailors’ assistants too, and we had a sour apple out of the little replaced garden, to be eaten with a piece of bread, as ‘pay’ when we gave satisfaction. Sour as it was, we liked it, and thought our labours fairly rewarded. The Meeting-house is all new, and the lodge changed. One of

our tallest boys was lodge keeper ; he noted everybody who entered the premises, and rang the bell for meals, and all collectings. They have done away with the cellars as washing-rooms for the boys, I suppose, long ago. Ah ! it was comfortless work running down from our bedrooms every morning into those cellars, half undressed, especially in winter. Now there are comfortable lavatories. The boys must be less hardy, though, than they used to be, and less able to rough it when they go apprentice. The colonnade has the old pillars ; certainly they are beginning to look older, and, like me, the worse for the summers and winters they have faced. But the schoolroom at the end of the colonnade has been turned into an Art Exhibition ; *that* was Henry Hawley's reading-class room fifty years ago. The shed-court and the shed, where we played on rainy days, are much as they were. I wonder if the boys are as good at long rope in the shed as we were ? And there is the outlet to the boys' gardens ; methinks they are rather less cared for than of yore, or is it that I have come to look at things with different eyes ? For I well remember how we prized our gardens, and had rewards given us when they were neat, and specially for the solid 'sides' we made, of clay, to hold the soil well in. Southernwood, columbine, roses, sweet briar, pinks—were ever flowers in after-life so delightful as these of our own, cultivated by our own hands, and to which we brought the water from the pump across the green ? How toothsome were the mustard, cress, and radishes, carried in our check pocket handkerchiefs to the supper of bread, butter, and water, at six o'clock." But our old friend is a little garrulous, and he and we turn in for the night, after looking into the

Committee Room—a beautiful room—now furnished so handsomely with its Centenary book-cases, the shelves of which we trust will soon be filled from the Fund and by Contributions.

THE GENERAL MEETING.

The weather, that potent influence on days of festival, had been capricious and showery on Third-day, as many who came into the village in open conveyances had experienced. Fourth-day, the 25th, opened brightly, and proved fine throughout. The proceedings of the General Meeting proper began at ten a.m., with the meeting for worship ; it was large, and an impressive and interesting occasion, partaking very much of a national character, being attended by ministers from various parts of the kingdom, and one from the United States of America,—the presence of the large number of children in a solid phalanx in the midst of the congregation, fitly symbolizing the care of the Church extended towards and around them.

The business part of the General Meeting commenced after a short recess :—it included the reading of the Report of the School for 1878. Quoting from the condensation of the Report in the pages of the *Friend*, we are told that “The number of children in the School had gradually increased, and at the close of 1878 there were 169 boys, and 114 girls, being only one boy and six girls less than could be accommodated. This improvement was due, in part, to the admission of a somewhat larger number of non-members, of whom there were thirty-eight. The tone of the school

was considered high, and the education satisfactory. . . . There had been an increase in salaries of £1,200 during the last twenty years, and yet the want of well-qualified teachers was more felt than in 1858. As was the case last year, the expenditure exceeded the income considerably, the deficiency being £543. The last winter vacation was reported to have been a success, and in the words of the Superintendent (Frederick Andrews) 'The work of the autumn half-year was conducted with increased vigour and spirit, on the part of both teachers and scholars, in anticipation of the break at Christmas.' " This vacation was the first regular winter one, there having been an experimental one two years before.

In the discussion which ensued, the excess of the School's expenditure over its income—and, in close connection with this, the difficulty of procuring efficient teachers on moderate terms,—gave rise to much variety of opinion. One or two Friends thought the standard of education higher than it used to be, hence involving a larger number of teachers, and greater expense; and their opinion was, that the curriculum of the School in earlier periods was sufficient, and in some respects better than now, as a preparation for after-life, being based on a plain and thoroughly good English education in reading, grammar, writing, spelling and arithmetic. But the view that prevailed was, that the standard must be fully maintained, in order successfully to compete with the educational advance in the country generally; and that, even financially, it would be a mistake to lower the standard at Ackworth, since it would tend to drive away from the School those children who came in under the highest scale of payment.

The higher classes having been recently visited by an Examiner from the University of Cambridge, the general result was verbally reported to be, that although the Examiner was not satisfied with the scholars' attainments in languages and mathematics, he approved highly of them as regarded the English branches of education. The Report of the Centenary Committee was also read to the meeting.*

Most of the Friends present were distributed to the various classes of boys and girls, in order to superintend, or be present at, their examination during the ensuing afternoon, and the following morning; the meeting adjourning till 2.30 p.m. the next day. Not very extended was the period between the conclusion of this meeting and the examination in the various class-rooms, commencing at three p.m., but it afforded the opportunity for a pleasant social recess, and of testing the capabilities of the refreshment tent. To-day, however, the assembly had on its business face. During the examinations, Friends varied in their practice, some constituting themselves the permanent Committee of their class; others flitting about from room to room, and comparing notes as to the respective classes; men Friends being restricted to the boys, and women Friends to the girls' schools. Generally, we believe, the teacher of the class conducted the examination, but very frequently this was varied by questions from Friends. In the two hours devoted to this service, the examination was necessarily very cursory; on these occasions we are merely educational "cheese-tasters." To the children generally

* This Report is given in full at pages 22-25.

the ordeal did not seem a formidable one, and not a few of them appeared rather to enjoy the occasion.

The morning sittings with the classes on Fifth-day began at seven o'clock, and lasted an hour; they were confined to examination in Scripture, and seemed satisfactory to Friends; Scripture facts and truths being evidently carefully taught to the children. At nine a.m., the most advanced class of boys assembled in the Meeting-house, to be further examined before a considerable concourse of Friends of both sexes. The boys occupied the gallery and the seat immediately below; the Clerk and Assistant of the Committee of this class were at a table under the gallery, the examining teacher at the further end of the room fronting the boys, and by precept and example tried to induce them to "speak up," so as to be heard by all. Very formidable must it have been to any timid boy, were there any such, to sit confronting his numerous and critical, though good-natured and sympathising audience, who, with the list of the names of the boys in hand, the age of each boy being marked opposite his name, filled many of the seats in the body of the room. It came into the mind of one of the audience, that a well known fabulist relates how once upon a time the monkey race assembled to listen to the recital of the wrongs of one of their species, who had escaped from the confinement of a menagerie, and described to his brethren the sufferings inflicted on him by mankind. Bringing into play their full powers of imitation and cunning, the monkeys conspired to capture several varieties of human beings, and exhibited them descriptively through Apeland to the mingled admiration and ridicule of its inhabitants. And what, thought

the dreamer, would be the result of a raid, on the part of Ackworth boys, upon their examining spectators, if a well selected number of the latter could be cooped up in that gallery, and made to read, to recite, to give clear definitions? How many bright wits might be found to be wool-gathering, and if mistakes were received by the audience with a well-bred but perceptible titter, how very likely these mistakes would be to multiply and become intensified. Nevertheless there was many a loving look turned by the elder Friends this morning to these dear boys, and many a cheering word spoken. Moreover, their performances seemed to give general satisfaction to the auditory.

Women Friends, in addition to the examination of the girls' classes, during these two days, had a Committee thoroughly to oversee the house and the domestic arrangements. And now, the Examinations being over, Friends, from the various sections, bring in their reports to the respective men's and women's Committees, and a condensed statement is prepared for the adjourned General Meeting, which assembles at 2.30 p.m., this Fifth-day, but little time being allowed either for food or rest. The report is held to be satisfactory by the adjourned meeting, the reading of the first class of the boys considered good; an old defect—the sing-song tone—being very little apparent; the arithmetic very fair, the writing creditable, and the sciences alone reflected on as somewhat wanting in variety. Thus the wishes of some Friends for proficiency in plain English, the fundamental Rs, seem to be realised, though on this point there is still a little grumbling, we being eminently a practical and commercial people, addicted to solidity in our tastes.

But lo! there starts up a grievance. Ought not a father

coming, no one knows how far, to this General Meeting, to be allowed to see his own dear girl examined? Yet someone intervenes, and tells him it may not be, and he is aggrieved. Forthwith there is much to be said on both sides. Is there not an unwritten law of courtesy, or chivalry, towards these timid girl-scholars, which would forbid that men should be present in numbers, when they are cross-questioned, lest they should be embarrassed? We compromise, and permit, as an exceptional privilege to be specially asked for, that a father may be present at the examination of a class of girls, and we do this with the lighter heart, inasmuch as we know that in other schools of Friends, men are present at the girls' examinations without consciously disturbing their equanimity. We are unanimously of opinion (on the question being raised of an old disused practice) that for Friends to walk about in the dining-rooms to see the children fed is a custom more honoured in the breach than in the observance, especially as the teachers take their meals with the children, and both have a sense of self-respect. Let us cultivate the proprieties of life, and remember that the boys are to be the future men, whom we would have to be courteous and mannerly in feeling and act. And so, with the expression of a watchful care that the literature introduced into the School may not be baneful, we made our concluding minute, owning the mercy and goodness of the Lord extended to our School through these hundred years; and separated to meet again in larger numbers at the farewell gathering of the General Meeting proper, at four o'clock, which proved to be a time of solemn worship, and heartfelt prayer and praise, silent and vocal.

FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION AND OTHER MEETINGS.

In order not to break the continuity of the narrative of the General Meeting we have not inserted in exact chronological order the other gatherings of Friends on Fourth and Fifth-days. We must now record briefly the proceedings of one held on Fourth-day evening, always a leading object of interest to Friends, the Annual Meeting of the First-day School Association. Springing from a very slender source, this movement has swollen into a vast stream of varied philanthropy and usefulness and of religious and Scriptural teaching. It may be interesting in the future to know the leading features of the work of the Association as now presented.

The Report states that there are 132 First-day Schools in existence, in eighty-seven places, with 1,488 teachers, and 22,234 scholars, consisting of—Adult Schools, with 563 teachers, and 12,363 scholars: Junior Schools, with 925 teachers, and 9,871 scholars. The number of members in the Society of Friends, we may observe in passing, is 14,710. The comparison of these numbers alone shows how wide-spread is the interest felt by Friends in this Sabbath-school work, exercising, as it does, so material an influence for good on so many members of the Society, and the attenders of its meetings for worship, and in some districts operating usefully upon a considerable number of the working-class outside the regular organisations of Friends. The Birmingham group of schools numbers seven, with 3,000 scholars. But the mere teaching forms but a part of the good effected. How varied are the

branch efforts which spring from the First-day Schools' associations: Mission Meetings, Bible-Classes, Savings Banks, Week-night Schools, Temperance, Band of Hope, Peace Associations, Sick Clubs, Mutual Improvement Meetings, Saturday afternoon excursions, and Saturday evening engagements, Flower Missions, Flower Shows,—all with the aim to counteract vice, or aid the religious teaching.

The discussion disclosed how valuable the teachers had found the regular study of Scripture, preparatory to meeting their classes. One of the speakers supposed it possible that some of those present at that meeting might live to celebrate the Centenary of the First-day School Association, and asked, "Will they not have to tell of the wonderful influence for good it has exerted?" The latest general movement in connection with the Association has been the sending forth of numerous deputations to visit the schools in various parts of England; decided testimony was borne to the pleasure and benefit resulting to both visitors and visited. The "call of duty,"—the Christian's "marching orders," ever a leading article of faith amongst Friends,—was markedly dwelt upon. The desire found expression, as it always does in these meetings, for more and more of a bridging over of the once apparently impassable chasm between the scholars and this little church of ours. There was a sympathetic allusion in the Report to the wave of commercial depression passing over us everywhere, and to the distress amongst the poor, aggravated last winter, as it was, by the long-continued severity of the season.

Another meeting of an interesting character was that for communion and united prayer on Fifth-day, held at six a.m. It was in the Meeting-house, and was a quiet, good

meeting. There was something in the hour, the freshness of the morning, and in the feeling that those who had thus early assembled had come with an earnest desire after good, which contributed to the life of the meeting. The special subject for prayer was the work of our First-day schools.

One other meeting of a very enjoyable kind to the children we may allude to, was held on Fourth-day, about five p.m.; to hear the report of the Friends' Public Schools' Industrial Association, and to award the prizes to the successful Exhibitors.

The Association sets forth in its printed statement the circumstances leading to its formation, and the objects it has in view, from which we make the following extracts, viz.:—"During the time of the last General Meeting" (that of 1878) "a Public Schools' Industrial Exhibition was held at Ackworth, which attracted a good deal of attention from visitors, and which was in many respects a success. This success has decided the promoters to repeat the experiment on a larger scale. The former Exhibition was limited to the productions—mechanical, artistic, and scientific—of boys only. The proposed second Exhibition will be thrown open to all pupils—boys and girls—at present being educated in the Public Schools of the Society of Friends in Great Britain and Ireland. In order further to enhance the main object of the Exhibition, viz., the encouragement of the useful employment of leisure time among the youth of our Schools, by offering inducements to industry in Art, Science, Mechanical Pursuits, Natural History, and other departments of work not included in the School curriculum, the Friends' Public Schools' Industrial Association has

been established. It has been decided that an annual Exhibition be held under its auspices—all articles exhibited being the results of work of members of the Association."

There are four Schools in the Association, Ackworth with 116 members, Croydon 32, Penketh 34, and Sidcot 85, total 267, and there were exhibits from each school. It is intended that the Exhibitions shall be annual, rotating from one school to another. A few months ago schedules were issued to the schools, offering prizes for a great variety of articles. As a rule these prizes were 10s. for the first, 5s. for the second, and 2s. 6d. for the third; but, in addition, the judges had the option of conferring a medal on any scholar whom they thought deserving of special distinction. Within a very short time 500 entries had been made from the four schools above named, and from that at Rawdon by about 230 boys and girls in all. From distant places these articles arrived at Ackworth, and for some days the Secretary, F. W. Follows, of Manchester, with a number of assistants, had been engaged, early and late, in classifying and ticketing the exhibits, and then arranging them in two of the Schoolrooms. The Exhibition was divided into three chief sections—1st, Workshop Products; 2nd, Needlework; 3rd, Drawing and Penmanship, but in addition prizes were offered for maps, also for geological and botanical collections. One boy, aged fifteen, had his name attached to no fewer than seven articles, including a kitchen table, a mahogany writing desk, and a box of chessmen. Another had directed his attention to the making of a telescope, and turned out a really handsome instrument in brass, resting upon a tripod. We must only name a few

more of the articles. There was a boat, planked and jointed, and a microphone,—the latter the work of a girl of fourteen. There were specimens of fretwork, of wood turnery, of ornamental carving, also of cabinet making, in the shape of sundry easy chairs, book-cases and workboxes. Staining and polishing of different kinds of wood, basket making, toy making, picture-frame making, and other craftsmanship were represented. There was an abundance of exhibits of every kind of plain and ornamental sewing, some of the girls showing how an old stocking can be so darned as to appear as good as new, while others showed the stranger little feats at herring-boning, knitting and crewelling. The third section of the Exhibition was that which comprised specimens of drawing in pencil, chalk, sepia, and water-colours; there were considerably over 100 of these on view, some of them were admirable, the water-colours being specially noticeable, as also the drawings from models. The judges were persons practically acquainted with the various kinds of work, and at the close of the meeting their award was read by F. W. Follows, and the prizes distributed by the President of the Association, Samuel Gurney.

In addition to the Exhibition we have just glanced at, there was another of much interest to the visitors. In one of the Class-rooms Albert Linney, the teacher of the first-class, arranged a number of relics of bygone times at Ackworth, also a bust of Dr. Fothergill, recently presented to the School, two of the Doctor's portfolios, and two of his tea-caddies. Not less interesting was a pocket Bible (printed in 1653) once the property of John Fothergill, the minister. The birth of his son John, afterwards Dr.

Fothergill, is entered on the last page of the Old Testament. These were lent by members of the family, now living in Darlington. The walls of the room were hung round with a number of old views of the School, together with letters of Dr. Fothergill; also Indentures of apprenticeship, under which those who had been inmates of the Ackworth Foundling Hospital were bound apprentices to tradespeople in the neighbourhood. There were the manuscript register of the names of scholars received into the School, and a memorial album containing the photographs and autographs of a host of worthies who have at various periods been associated with Ackworth. Passing by other mementoes we notice a singular-looking iron dish hung against the wall, a label upon which informs us that in the bygone times it was used for various purposes in the kitchen and dining-rooms; the words throw some light on the mode of living in the days of "lob scouse," and other ancient delicacies. The quaint old dish was flanked with a couple of small wooden plates or trenchers, used up to a period of about fifty years ago, which were remembered by a number of the attenders of this General Meeting; then a smile was evoked as we examined a pair of the leathern breeches which were in use until about 1820. Among other curiosities was the dial of the original clock erected at Ackworth School in 1779; also an illustration of the antique "Ticket system," in the shape of a parchment purse to hold the tickets by means of which rewards and punishments were apportioned to the boys. The Centenary Committee had also solicited the loan of any Works of Art by Old Scholars: and many responded thereto most kindly. The walls of the scholars'

dining-rooms were largely covered with water-colour and pencil drawings, and specimens of penmanship. If these obtained less notice than they deserved it was because the objects of interest on the premises were so numerous, and the attendance at the various meetings so well maintained, that there was not much time available.*

*.The descriptions of the Industrial Exhibition and of the ancient curiosities are extracted from the copious report of the Centenary proceedings published in the *Wakefield Express*.

CENTENARY ARRANGEMENTS.

WE have lingered, for reasons already stated, amongst the various engagements of the General Meeting. We must now turn to the proceedings of the Centenary gatherings, which gave such special interest to the General Meeting of 1879. We have said that there had been months of preparation. Let us glance at the nature of these preparations. At the General Meeting of 1877, the following minute was made, viz. :—

“The desirability of preparing for some celebration of the approaching Hundredth Anniversary of the foundation of Ackworth School which shall be worthy of the occasion has been brought before the General Meeting by William Coor Parker. The proposal meets with the hearty approval of the meeting ; and the following Friends are appointed to consider the subject, and report to our next meeting, viz. :— Joseph Simpson, Charles Barnard, Thomas Pumphrey, James Thompson, Thomas Emmott, William Coor Parker, Joseph Dell, John Stansfield, Albert Linney, together with Frederick Andrews, and any other Friends whose services the Committee may feel to require, in order to make the appointment thoroughly representative.

“THOMAS PUMPHREY, *Clerk.*”

.To the General Meeting of 1878, this Committee reported progress as follows, viz. :—

“The Committee appointed at the last General Meeting

report that they have held four meetings, to consider the subject entrusted to them, and have consulted the Ackworth General Committee thereon.

“As a result of their deliberations, they recommend that the Hundredth Anniversary of the foundation of Ackworth School shall be celebrated at Ackworth, on Sixth-day in the ‘General Meeting’ week, 1879. On that day, they propose the old scholars shall be invited to Ackworth, to take part in a meeting at which appropriate papers may be read and addresses delivered. The children to be admitted to this meeting, and to have suitable treats provided for them. Out-door games, &c., to be organised, so that all may join in,—boys, girls, and the old scholars.

“While some such arrangements as these may serve to commemorate the day in friendly re-union of those more especially interested, the Committee feel that some more permanent memorial of the event should be aimed at; and to this they have naturally given most of their attention. Many proposals have been considered—among them a very thorough scheme of science teaching—but the Committee have been deterred from recommending it in its entirety, principally because of its great cost. After very careful consideration the Committee have decided to recommend the formation of a ‘Centenary Fund,’ to be applied to the establishment and maintenance of a Library worthy of the Institution, and that the surplus be applied to the encouragement and teaching of Practical and Natural Science.

“There are at present five libraries in the School; three for scholars, viz., one for girls, one for junior boys, and another for senior boys; two for the teachers and other officers, available also for the scholars under special circum-

stances. A very large proportion of the books in all these libraries are unsuitable or useless, whilst there is a great deficiency of new and standard works on Science and History, of Books of Reference, and of Voyages and Travels.

"It is proposed to unite the Teachers' Libraries and form a central one, to be placed in the noble Committee-room, and thoroughly reconstitute this and the Scholars' Libraries.

"It is suggested that a further sum be invested, and the annual income from it applied to the keeping-up of the Libraries in an efficient state.

"It is hoped that the sum raised will yield a further annual income, which the Committee recommend should be applied to the carrying out of the scientific teaching above alluded to.

"The General Meeting will desire to know the probable cost of the proposals now made; this cannot be stated accurately, but if the Committee-room be utilised as recommended, the immediate expenditure on books and fittings may be set down at about £1,000, and it is thought the interest of another £1,000 would keep the Libraries in an efficient state. If a further sum of £1,000 were raised (making £3,000 in all), it would form the nucleus of a fund for the more complete teaching of Science, which might be increased in the future.

"The Committee suggest that, in defining the purposes to which the annual income from the Fund be applied, some latitude be given to the General Committee of the Institution, to enable them to meet the varying circumstances and needs of the School, whilst carrying out, as far as practicable, the main objects of the endowment.

"As contributing to the interest of the occasion, it is recommended that a list of the scholars during the century should be published, accompanied by a Memoir of Dr. Fothergill, and by a short History of the School, written in a lively manner, and illustrated by photographic views.

"It is suggested that the General Meeting should entrust the carrying out of such plans as it may adopt to a Committee, with power to add to their number, and acting in full harmony with the General Committee of the Institution.

"The Committee cannot conclude this Report without expressing their own gratitude for the great benefits—temporal, intellectual, and spiritual,—which they personally have derived from Ackworth School; their earnest desire, that all who have thus been benefited may combine to make the Centennial Anniversary an era, from which a career of still greater usefulness may be dated; and their fervent prayer that the blessing of the Lord may continue upon the Institution, and abound yet more and more.

"For the Committee,

"*Ackworth School,*
Sixth Month 25th, 1878."

"WM. COOR PARKER.

The following Friends were ultimately the members of the Committee, viz. :—

William Abbatt.
Frederick Andrews.
George Baker.
Charles Barnard.
John Binks.
Joseph F. Clark.
Joseph Dell.

Thomas Emmott.
Thomas Harvey.
Joseph S. Hodgson.
Albert Linney.
Wm. Coor Parker.
John R. Procter.
Thomas Pumphrey.

James Reckitt.
William Rowntree.
John S. Rowntree.
Joseph Simpson.
Alfred Simpson.
Thomas Smithson.
John Stansfield.

James Thompson.
Richard Thompson.
John Hall Thorp.
James Hack Tuke.
Edward West.
Isaac Grey Wallis.

Treasurer : --Arthur Pease, Darlington.

Secretaries :—William Coor Parker, Darlington.

Alfred Simpson, 49, Major St., Manchester.

The Committee, and especially the Secretaries, worked with hearty good will to carry out the objects above indicated. Fully 3,000 circulars were issued to old scholars and Friends; and all over the kingdom local treasurers undertook the duty of canvassing for, and receiving, the subscriptions. At the General Meeting of 1879 the Committee were able to report the amount of subscriptions then received as £3,335 12s. contributed by 1,171 persons, which amount has since been increased. The subscriptions were in sums varying from 1s. to £100 each. We propose now to indicate the leading arrangements made by the Committee for the Centenary days, and to state the results of their labours so far as these were known at the time of the writing of this account.

We have already mentioned the Refreshment Tent. This, with the seats therein for 400 persons, and the refreshments, were provided by Henry Oliver, of Doncaster, a tariff for meals being arranged beforehand with the Committee. They guaranteed to him at least £100 of total receipts, an amount more than doubled. On the whole he carried out the arrangements satisfactorily. Joseph Firth

Clark, of Doncaster, took the oversight of this department. There was a marquee erected at the end of the girls' wing, and on their playground, on Fifth-day afternoon. It was provided and fixed by Samuel Stone & Co., of Leeds, under the superintendence of a member of the Committee, John Hall Thorp. It was computed to hold 1,500 persons. The visitors to the Centenary were conveyed to and from the various stations round Ackworth by Daniel Watson, the landlord of the School Hotel; his own staff, horses, and carriages being supplemented from Doncaster, the rate of charge for conveyance being fixed by the Committee. Owing to the very large number of the visitors there was difficulty in providing fully adequate accommodation in this department, and some inconvenience was sustained. As regards lodgings, it may be observed that many of the visitors came to Ackworth and returned during the day; a large proportion, however, took lodgings in the village. An office was opened opposite the Meeting-house, where John M. Gardner, of Leeds, the Registrar of Lodgings, aided Friends in finding quarters, a small fee being charged to those who availed themselves of his valuable services. In this way about 200 persons found accommodation, but a much larger number were entertained by private friends, or made their own arrangements. The number attending the celebration has been computed at about 1,600, thus composed, viz.:—

Subscribers to the Fund	...	...	...	800
Members of the families of subscribers	...	...	...	400
Other friends applying for tickets at 1s. each	...	...	...	427
Total	...	...	...	1,627

so that the meeting consisted largely of those associated with the School. The cost of the celebration, so far as it is yet known, is nearly as follows, viz:—

Expenses of the Centenary Days—printing, salary, &c.—less tickets and fees...	£95
Furnishing and decorating the Committee Room	190
	<u>£285</u>

The intended appropriation of the Centenary funds is about as follows, viz. :—

Printing, postage, and incidental expenses	£70
Expenses of Celebration—less fees and price of tickets	95
Advertising	25
Bookcases for Committee Room and boys' and girls' wings, paid	£306 9 10
Dwarf bookcases, &c.	53 10 2
	<u>360</u>
Furnishing and decorating the Committee Room	190
Loss on publications, say	100
New books for libraries, say	700
To be invested on account of libraries	1,000
„ „ on account of science and teaching	1,000
	<u>£3,540</u>
Received and promised	£3,420

This appropriation is of course subject to the ultimate amount of the fund. As respects railway facilities the special trains to the village of Ackworth have already been mentioned; in addition to which the Great Northern Railway Company stopped all their express trains but one at Hems-
worth during each of the three days; and this arrangement proved a great convenience.

CENTENARY MEETING OF FIFTH-DAY.

Unusually interesting as the proceedings of the General Meeting had been, there was an evidence of deepened interest, amounting almost to enthusiasm, as the time approached for the holding of the first meeting in celebration of the Centenary. It assembled in the Meeting-house at 6.30 p.m., on Fifth-day, the older scholars being present. Very closely were Friends packed in the body of the house; seats were placed in the centre aisle, and the galleries were well filled. Probably more than 1,000 persons were present. We had lost our business faces, had finished our examinations and discussions, and were eager and joyous as became us. THOMAS HARVEY, of Leeds, at the unanimous and cordial invitation of the Centenary Committee, was called upon to preside, and was warmly welcomed by the assembly. He said:—

Although, dear friends, we may feel that the very solemn and interesting meeting which was held in this place an hour or two ago was a fitting introduction to and preparation for this meeting, yet I think it will be best—remembering especially the words, “In all thy ways acknowledge Him,”—to read a few verses from the Psalms, followed by a short devotional pause. They shall be passages taken from several of the Psalms, a practice for which we have good authority in the Scriptures themselves:—

“Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.”—Ps. cxxvii. 1.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul : and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits"—Ps. ciii. 1, 2.

"Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!"—Ps. cvii. 8.

"That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth ; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace."—Ps. cxliv. 12.

"Blessed be God, which hath not turned away our prayer, nor His mercy from us."—Ps. lxvi. 20.

After the few minutes of silence succeeding the reading of these passages, the CHAIRMAN proceeded as follows :—I have had put into my hands a letter from an old Ackworth scholar, which I am sure you will be glad to receive. He says :—

" TO THE ACKWORTH SCHOOL CENTENARY.

"Failing health in my eighty-third year prevents my attendance on this memorable and interesting occasion.

"It is more than seventy years since I left Ackworth as a schoolboy, under a grateful sense of the benefit of which I had there been the recipient.

" WILLIAM ROBSON.

" *Stockton-on Tees, Sixth Month, 1879.*"

A letter has also been received from our highly valued friend John Bright. (Applause.) I had the pleasure of being at Ackworth with him. He was not here very long, but my elder brother and he were intimate friends, and whenever we have met he has always remembered the association between us. I need not allude to his career after leaving school, so honourable to Ackworth and to our Society, and so useful to the country at large. (Hear, hear, and applause.)

Probably he might have been here to-day, but for the recollection that when of late years he has been present at Ackworth it has been in company with his wife, who may almost be said to have laid down her valuable life in the service of the Institution. She threw herself with great interest into all its concerns. (Hear, hear.) She was the animating spirit of the Women's Committee, and on returning home from one of its meetings was taken ill, as some thought from over-exertion, and her life was cut short. Knowing, then, the interest which John Bright and his dear wife took in this School, it would have been a great joy to us to have had his company to day. (Hear, hear.) At the same time we may be sure that his heart is with us, and that he will no doubt read with interest the account of the proceedings of this day. I am just reminded that, apart from his feelings, he is so situated that he could not have attended to-day. I am unfeignedly diffident in taking the chair this evening from a sense that I have not the power to give the right tone to such a meeting as this, or give expression to those feelings which are uppermost in all our minds. It is about fifty-eight years since I came to this School, and as I have been a member of the Committee for seven periods of four and sometimes five years, my connection with the Committee has been a pretty long one, and Ackworth School has fallen very much, for a long course of years, under my observation. It seems wonderful to myself to think now that the whole of my school period was in the first half century of this School's existence. When I was here the School seemed to me part of the fixed order of things, as if it had existed for a long time, and was not likely to undergo much change or cease to be pretty much

what it was then. I think we shall all feel, in looking back as far as we are able upon the retrospect of a century, that there is very great cause for thankfulness; that, on the whole, the expectations of the founders have been largely fulfilled—(hear, hear,)—perhaps not always just in the way they expected or could have desired—and that abundant blessing has rested upon their labours. (Hear, hear.) At the same time, we are all aware—and those especially who are concerned in the management of the School—that it has been a chequered experience; that there have been times of great discouragement and difficulty, when one has felt almost as if the difficulties could hardly be overcome, and as if some great crisis and change must be expected. I need not, however, dwell upon those periods, for we know that, through the mercy of our Heavenly Father, the difficulties have been got over, and I am not aware that at any time the prospects of the School were more satisfactory and brighter than at the present moment. (Applause.) It would be very interesting if we had the data, which we have not to a very large extent, by which to compute the results, in their after-history, of the lives of the very large number of men and women in our Society who have been educated at Ackworth School. We know that from time to time old Ackworth scholars have attained to considerable eminence—some of these are now living. The name of one very distinguished individual I have already mentioned, and others might be mentioned—fellows of the Royal Society and other important bodies; men who have made their mark upon their time. But how very small a part are these of the whole results, and how much more important would it be if we could satisfy ourselves that the greater

number of the boys and girls that have been at Ackworth School, and have lived and grown up to be men and women, many of them seeing lengthened years before passing away—that in these cases, as a general rule, the education at Ackworth had been a success; not worldly success wholly or chiefly, but success in the highest sense of the word: men and women fulfilling their duties, working out the plan of our Heavenly Father concerning them. There is a saying that “every man’s life is a plan of God,” and that if we yield ourselves to the influence of the Good Spirit and accept Christ in early life, that plan will be worked out, and each one will be brought into the largest measure of usefulness and service of which he is capable. No doubt, of the large number who have passed through the School, there have been not a few failures in this sense; yet there have been many who, while greatly benefiting others, have themselves been prospered—outwardly and spiritually—by means of the teaching and Christian training they received within the walls of this Institution. (Hear, hear.) It is quite unnecessary for me to go in detail into the history of the past of this School: we shall have that brought before us to-morrow, and I know that it is likely very greatly to interest those who may be privileged to hear it. I should, however, just like to allude to one other point. I have no doubt the second half-century of this School’s existence has been a happier and brighter experience than the first half, and I have no doubt that the last twenty-five years have been better than the preceding twenty-five; that the School has in many ways, educationally, very much improved. We may say that without casting any reflection upon our friends of the past; they were

probably in advance of their time ; at any rate they acted fully up to their light, and we enjoy the benefit of their labours. Still I have no doubt that the state of the School is far better, and the children more comfortable, and their prospects when they leave school more favourable, than during the first half-century of the School's existence. Something was said in this place yesterday on the necessity for great economy in the management of the School, in which I think we may all concur. At the same time it is necessary to advance with the times in the matter of education. (Hear, hear.) Within a few years the Education Act has come into operation ; elementary schools are spread all over our country, and give an education of a very superior kind. It cannot be compared in all points with the education given at Ackworth, but with reference to those points in which it can be compared we shall have to look sharply after our interests and endeavour to maintain our position. (Hear, hear.) Therefore we cannot afford to narrow our curriculum unduly, or lower the tone and quality of the education which we give : rather we hope it may be even further improved. You will remember a passage in Ecclesiastes which I think is very much to this point : "Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these ? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this." The inspired writer does not say that the modern times are better than the ancient, but implies that each age and each period must endeavour to do their very best in the matter which they have in hand. And so I believe the future Ackworth School Committee, the Friends holding up their hands in various parts of the country, parents and others, must look to maintain, and

even improve, the education which is given in this School. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN, at the conclusion of his address, called upon JAMES HACK TUKE, of Hitchin, to read a paper which he had prepared at the request of the Centenary Committee, being a sketch of the life of Dr. Fothergill, the originator, and at least the most active and liberal founder, of Ackworth School.

It was befitting the occasion that his invaluable efforts in behalf of the Institution should thus be prominently recognised, and that the instructive story of his useful life should be told at the conclusion of the century of the existence of the Ackworth School. Before the lecturer was placed, in view of the whole meeting, the beautiful Wedgwood bust of Dr. Fothergill executed from a model by Flaxman. It heightened the interest of the auditors as the various points in the character of the Christian Philanthropist were brought out in the reading.

A SKETCH OF THE LIFE
OF
JOHN FOTHERGILL, M.D., F.R.S.,
BORN 1712; DIED 1780.
BY JAMES HACK TUKE.

THE earliest time at which the name of Fothergill occurs in history is, so far as I have been able to trace, in connection with the siege of York by the Norman William.

Old Drake, in his celebrated "Eboracum," gives an amusing account of an adventure in which the Conqueror and his knight Fothergill were concerned, which led to the capture of the "Noble old City," and which briefly may be related as follows:—

"The North Riding and the City of York having long withstood all efforts to conquer them, Duke William determined himself to lay siege to the city, which he commenced on St. Thomas's Day. Retiring in the evening, after an unsuccessful day, to his camp at Skelton, he met two friars, and on inquiring where they dwelt, they said at York, and were of a poore Priory of St. Peter's, and had been to obtain 'some relief to their fellows against Christmas.' One of them was laden with a Wallett of Victuals and a Shoulder of Mutton in his hand, and two great cakes hung about his necke, one of



John Fothergill.

(FROM THE CAMEO BY WEDGWOOD.)

backe and another of his breast. The other had a bottle of Ale and a Wallett filled with Beef and Mutton.

"The Normans did confer with these Poore Friars, and promised them large gifts if so they would let them into their monastery, and also give them money. The Conqueror also promised that he would make their Priory all new, and give them great revenue, which he did after perform. Soe they did condescend to let them into the Citty at a Postern Gate ; and the King sent for his army, and he, with his general of the field, Fothergill, took the Citty that night."

The Conqueror acted well to Sir Robert Clifford and others, who had so nobly defended their ancient city, "and willed that they should ask what they would have, and they should have it."

"They demanded of him if they might have every St. Thomas's Day a Friar of St. Peter's Priory, painted like a Jew, to ride of a horse, with the Taile in one hand and Shoulder of Mutton in the other, with a Cake before his breast and another at his backe, all throughout the Citty, and the Boyes of the Citty to ride with him, and proclaim that the Citty was taken that day through the treachery of the Friars ; which it is added was continued as a Memorial to that day."

This Knight Fothergill married "the faire Isabel Poulton," or Boulton, who had as dower many manors, including, among others, those of "Sedber and Garsdale."

That the Fothergill family known to us were descendants of the Norman Baron and the "faire Isabel" we do not pretend to say ; but this can easily be traced—that for three or four centuries, families of this name have resided

in the wild and secluded valleys of Ravenstonedale and Mallerstang, both valleys in Westmoreland, which adjoin upon "Sedber and Wensleydale." Sufficient for us, for the purpose of this memoir, is the fact, that a John Fothergill migrated thence to Counterset in Wensleydale, and afterwards to Carr End soon after the year 1600.

The simple humble life of the "Statesman" or "Dalesman" of Yorkshire or Westmoreland, as it existed centuries ago, does not present many incidents for the historian to dwell upon, and thus it is that until the rise of Quakerism we know comparatively little of the ancestors of Dr. Fothergill's family, except that they had undoubtedly dwelt in these vales for many previous generations.

But Quaker history—which has preserved for us, like "flies in amber," lives or notices of so large a number of its earliest members—tells us that at Carr End, on the banks of the small and quiet lake of "Semer Water," there dwelt Alexander and Ann Fothergill, who were probably convinced by George Fox (about the year 1652), as "he passed up the Dales warning people to fear God, and preaching the everlasting Gospel to them."*

Here, in 1676, John Fothergill the elder, the father of Dr. Fothergill, was born. Living in immediate succession to the Fathers of Quakerism, he inherited much of their earnest spirit, and devoted the greater portion of his life to the work of the ministry and missionary journeys throughout England, Ireland, and Scotland, as well as North America and the West Indies. Three visits were paid to America at different periods of his life, the first when he was thirty

* George Fox's Journal, folio, p. 72.

years of age, and the last when he was about sixty. The devoted simplicity of his early life well deserves our hearty admiration and respect. He appears to have inherited the little estate at Carr End, after the death of his father, in 1695, who had suffered much the previous year from months of imprisonment in York for refusing to pay tithes, in company with the ancestors of not a few of us who are now present.

A year after his father's death, when about twenty years of age, he began his ministerial work, and gave up house-keeping, and the house at Carr End, retaining "only a little ground in his own hands for some necessary employ which" (he says) "I loved and believed was both good for the body and a beneficial stay to the mind."

Soon after he gave up even this land in order to be more "completely at liberty" for his journeys in the ministry, "yet worked often (on the land) for some others, both for a living, and that my mind might not be too much disengaged from temporal concerns, wherein there appeared to me a danger." But still he adds, "I loved to be at home with my friends and to labour with my hands in the creation."

When about thirty-four, he married Margaret Hough, of Sutton, in Cheshire, a woman likeminded with himself, and settled down for some years in the old family house at Carr End. Here the seven children were born, brought up with a "zealous concern" (he says) "that they might have an inward experience of an Holy living principle operating in their hearts" in order to "lead them from error and unrighteousness into all truth and the practice of every Christian virtue."

Two of these children—the second son, John Fothergill,

the most distinguished physician, and Samuel Fothergill, the sixth son, the most distinguished Quaker preacher of the middle of the last century — were striking instances of the value of this teaching. John Fothergill, the future doctor, was born on the 8th of March, 1712. (*Appendix A.*)

In very early life he was placed under the care of his mother's family, the Houghs of Cheshire, who were people of good fortune, with whom the bright, energetic, and sweet-tempered boy was, no doubt, a great favourite; and to them he was in after years largely indebted for the means which allowed him to carry on his studies.

After leaving the elementary day school at Frodsham, in Cheshire, he was sent (at twelve) to the old-established Grammar School, of about 120 boys, at Sedbergh, on the borders of Yorkshire and Westmoreland, and not very far from his father's house. There he seems to have remained for four years, and obtained that thorough education which was of such good service in after life. Dr. Saunders was the head master at this time.

The Sedbergh School owed its foundation to Roman Catholic times. In the year 1528 (says the old chronicle), "Master Roger Lupton, a man of pious memory deserved, founded a public school, where the youth among the 'Sedbarians,' should be instructed in letters and gentility; and gave it, endowed with a certain small sum for the support of a schoolmaster; and also founded a small chauntry, in which masses were to be sung to redeem the soul of the founder, or others whom he might appoint."*

* History of Sedbergh.

Nor was this the only instance of Dr. Lupton's zeal for education, as the "Lupton Tower" at Eton, of which he was Provost for some years, testifies. He also established "a foundation for sixe" scholars, or disciples, for ever to remain "in the colledge of St. John's, Cambrdyge, to be chosen from such as had been students in Sedber School." But the Reformation brought troublous times upon Sedbergh, a few years later, and the school was reduced to the greatest poverty by the confiscation of its lands, &c., spite of the earnest pleading of the celebrated Roger Ascham. It was reconstituted in Edward the Sixth's reign, as the "Free Grammar School of Sedbergh," and has flourished to the present day.

Leaving Sedbergh School in 1728, at the age of sixteen he was apprenticed for seven years (as the Indenture now shown proves) to Benjamin Bartlett, an eminent apothecary at Bradford. B. Bartlett was a minister in the Society of Friends known to young Fothergill's father, with whom he travelled extensively. His house (says Gilbert Thompson*) might be called—

"The Seminary of Ingenious Physicians. How happy to obtain such a master, when to imitate him was to be the gentleman in sentiment and manner, to be generous, good, and virtuous. He had here the completest opportunity of knowing drugs, and preparations in their best and genuine state, of compounding them with neatness, visiting patients, and of laying the

* "Memoirs of the Life and a View of the Character of the late Dr. John Fothergill." Drawn up, by desire of the Medical Society of London, by G. Thompson, M.D. 1782.

best foundation in an art to which his mind had an early and strong impulse. He gave many flattering expectations under the precepts of his worthy master, and his sensible conduct and behaviour attracted the notice, and even admiration, of some considerable persons in the neighbourhood."

It was probably as some recognition of the fidelity of these services that he was liberated before the expiration of the term of his apprenticeship, to pursue his medical studies in Edinburgh, which, from the eminence of the men who at that period filled the Professors' chairs, had the highest repute; suffice it to name—Drs. Munro, Alston, and Rutherford, — all of them pupils, of the celebrated Boerhaave, of Leyden.

I have been fortunate enough to have had placed in my hands, by my friend I. M. Williams, of York, to whom it was given by a great-niece of Dr. Fothergill's, the memorandum or account book, in which the young student entered with great minuteness his daily expenditure and some other details, beginning with his entry upon Edinburgh life in 1734, and continuing to the year 1739, when, unhappily, it ceases. By an entry on the first page of this book, it appears that his grandfather, Thomas Hough, had left him the sum of £120 towards his education, and that on leaving home he received £20 (part of this) from his uncle Thomas Hough, towards his college expenses. He appears to have ridden from Carr End on horseback, selling the mare he rode (for £4 4s.) to Jonathan Ormston, of Kelso; and his expenses for the three days, on the way from Carr End to Edinburgh amounted to 17s. 6d. All his belongings were probably in his saddle-bags, as among the first entries

in his account book we find:—"A hat, 7s. 6d."; " $13\frac{1}{2}$ yards linen, at 1s. 11d. per yard"; "shirts making and stocks, 5s."; "gloves, 1s. 3d."; "shoes, 4s. 6d." And further on we find he pays for 4 ozs. tea, 2s. 9d. (= 11s. per lb.), 1s. 6d. per lb. for sugar, and 3d. per lb. for butter. For his lodgings he pays 2s. 6d. per week.

The Edinburgh of that period was a city of little over 50,000 inhabitants, much divided in political feeling and allegiance; among whom, as was shown, the Jacobin fire needed but to be fanned to burst forth into a flame, when ten years later the Pretender's flag was unfurled before the city. The town itself was as great a contrast as is possible to that which the every-day traveller calls to mind, as he thinks of the "modern Athens." The old town, with its narrow streets and dark "wynds," upon which we look with so much interest, was the Edinburgh of Fothergill's student days; and doubtless, as he passed up and down the High Street, he often looked up to the words over the house of John Knox at the head of the Netherbow—

"Lufe. God abuse al. and yj npehtbour. as pi.self."

—words which might seem to have been chosen as his motto, and carried out during life to an extent which few have surpassed.

His first visit to London was probably made during the summer recess of 1735, as we find an entry of, "Paid my freight from Leith by vessel to London £1 11s. 6d.," a voyage which appears to have taken as long a period as is now occupied by the steamers between Liverpool and New York; the voyage to London taking nine days and the return to Edinburgh even a longer period.

Both during this visit to London, and in Edinburgh, he commenced to form his library, and a list of these purchases—costing £18 1s. od., during the two years, is now before me; the only *non*-medical books in the list being “Thomas-à-Kempis,” 6d.; “Boyle’s Seraphic Love,” 8d.; and “Ray’s Travels,” 12s.

At the University he pursued his studies, says his biographer (Lettsom)*

“With sérious attention, and a purpose of being well grounded in those principles of science, preparatory to a conscientious care of life and health. He was one of the few who engaged the particular regard of the Professors, and I have heard several of them in their public lectures speak of him in terms of sincere esteem, and equally commend his professional accomplishments, and the integrity of his life.”

Dr. Lettsom says that Dr. Fothergill adopted the method of taking notes of the heads of each lecture of the professors, and on returning to his lodgings translating those into Latin which had been given in English, and then carefully consulting and comparing the opinions both of the ancients and moderns upon the subject, after which he added such remarks as his reading and reflection furnished; thus gaining a knowledge both of ancient and modern medical practice which was of the greatest use in his future career. He also carried on with much assiduity the study of the Greek and Latin, and probably French, languages.

Using again the little account book, we find, under the

* “Memoirs of J. Fothergill, M.D.,” by J. C. Lettsom, M.D., 1783.

date of Second Month 20th, 1736, "A letter from father." That letter is still extant, and forms one of a series of letters which have been placed at my disposal by the kindness of Alexander Fothergill, of Darlington, a lineal descendant of the writer, John Fothergill the elder.* This letter refers to the prospect of his son's shortly leaving Edinburgh for London, and is a pleasing evidence of the care taken by a parent of whom the son in after years constantly speaks in most affectionate and grateful terms:—

"With respect to thy going to London" (he writes) "I could say little, nor yet have any settled dislike or uneasiness to dissuade therefrom, nor dare I say much on the other hand, but pray, and believe if thou walk and step with reverence, and yet with a cheerful trust and without too much boldness, fear to tempt the Lord for extraordinary directions, more than may be agreeable to His wisdom to give; the Almighty will care for thee and cast up ways one little after another to thy comfort and His own honour; which my own soul is much affected in longing for on thy account, more than words can set forth thou may be assured, and which is much of what I can now do further for thee. Farewell, Farewell, thy nearly loving Father,—J. F.

"To JOHN FOTHERGILL att THOMAS ARESKINE,
Brewer in Edinbro'."

* I have also to thank T. C. Riley, of Liverpool, for obtaining for me the valuable collection of Fothergill Papers, belonging to the Crosfield family; also J. B. Braithwaite, Fothergill Watson (of Nottingham), and G. S. Gibson for the use of private letters and papers, &c.; and my brother, Dr. Hack Tuke, for researches in the British Museum, and much other aid.

Soon after, young Fothergill wrote his Latin Thesis; took his degree of Doctor of Medicine, and left Edinburgh in the autumn of 1736, having most probably witnessed the excitement resulting from the firing by Porteous upon the mob, and the subsequent riot and burning of the Tolbooth, and execution of Porteous; scenes so vividly depicted by Scott in "The Heart of Midlothian."

The 29th of October, 1736, saw Dr. Fothergill, at the age of twenty-four, in London, where, the more thoroughly to qualify himself for practice, he entered as a pupil at St. Thomas's Hospital. During this time, though chiefly thus occupied and in visiting the poor, he took a few fees, some at 10s. 6d., and others at 2rs. He expended £8 10s. on a watch, which sum I shall be happy to give for it to the present fortunate possessor. I should, however, hardly like to pay £2 8s. 1½d., which he gave to "Richard Reynolds for 2¾ yards of drab cloth at 17s. 6d. per yard, for coat and breeches." Nor must I omit the entry of the purchase of his *first cane*, 4s., and a pair of spurs, 29s., and, as showing the literary bent of his mind, Homer's Iliad, Pascal's Pensées, Woodward on Fossils, and a Hebrew Grammar; also "Amber Stones" 14s., and a Map of Siberia, on both of which subjects he read essays in after-years before the Royal Society. With his brother "Samme" he also visited Oxford.

A letter written about this time to his brother Alexander, who resided on the family property at Carr End, strikingly shows his maturity of character and depth of feeling at twenty-five.

"If thou supposed thyself almost forgot, thou wast mistaken; if ideas could be clothed with substance, if

thoughts could be rendered as visible as they are quick, ocular demonstration would convince thee of the contrary; how often would thou see me, in the house, in the orchard, in the fields, and scampering amongst the rocks, . . . whilst I am attending thee at work, or admiring thy fruitful genius in turning to some purpose the unpolished crag or crooked ash; . . . when, with fearlest sooner or later the enemy should tempt me to a lukewarm state, by the many objects I am daily conversant among, I sometimes ask,—has the enemy as much power in the rural retreats of my native dale?

“A thousand scenes of folly are here perpetually offered to my view, besides the horrid din of blasphemous oaths, sufficient almost to pollute the air, and draw down the waiting vengeance. Wensleydale is void of these, at least it is in one’s power to shun them. Thrice happy are you whilst I view you in this light; but change the scene, look to the heart—are you less selfish, less obdurate, more full of Divine love. Yes! some holy souls there are, purified and redeemed from earth, possessed of a degree of primeval simplicity, and unaffected innocence, but how few of these; how numerous the sinful, the obdurate, the rebellious, and such as know not experimentally that there is a God, but with the strongest pretences to Christianity are real practical Atheists, in the *true* sense of the word. Of both these kinds our world here is composed. Here and there we meet with bright seraphic souls disengaged from earth, but cordially despised for it by the rebellious and miserably stupid part of mankind, by much the most numerous. If one examines into the way by which one of the blessed

inhabitants above described, of your or our country arrived at this degree of purity, we find it by one and the same way; viz:—a willing obedience to the internal dictates once certainly learned by a close attention to the Dictator. Thus dear Brother, I find little odds; happiness is confined to neither city nor country, we possess it in proportion to our obedience, and our willingness to part with everything for it."

Fairly established in practice, he took a house in White Hart Court, Gracechurch Street (in 1740), adjoining the once well-known Friends' Meeting-house there. As appears from the little book, so often quoted, he received fees in this year to the amount of 105 guineas, and expended £104, of which £44 was spent in travelling in Holland and Germany for twelve weeks.

I may here refer the curious for further information about this journey to the letter in Latin which he addressed to his friend Dr. Cuming on his return home, given in Dr. Lettsom's Life.*

But I cannot refrain from giving a short extract from a letter written about this time to his brother "Samme," in which he refers to a visit from his father in London.

"I wonder not" (he says) "at the tenderness thou expresses; whilst he was here my heart was filled with thankfulness, not only for such a parent, but also that I could see some marks of that treasure of goodness which it has pleased Divine love to place and treasure

* "Memoirs of John Fothergill, M.D.," by J. Cookley Lettsom, M.D. London: 1783.

up in his soul. The wisdom of his conduct, his uprightness and humility often affect me."

We have now brought the life of Dr. Fothergill to the period of his establishment as a physician in the City of London, what was then truly "*The City of London*"; a London which, though then deemed "immense," had a population of scarcely three-quarters of a million.

Here, during the succeeding forty years, he laboured unremittingly, attaining to the highest rank in his profession, and numbering among his patients some of the most worthy and distinguished characters of the century. But in estimating his character it would be a great mistake to regard him simply as a great physician; it was in its highest and widest meaning, *as a friend to man*, that he has a claim upon our regard and admiration. There is scarcely a point which affects the physical, moral and religious interests of the race, which did not attract his attention, and receive benefit from his judicious and untiring labours.

As it will be necessary for the purpose of this sketch to be as brief as possible, and, at the same time, to give a general idea of what manner of man Dr. Fothergill was, we propose to take the forty years in decades.

During the first decade, we find him living alone in White Hart Court, his practice for some time growing but slowly; thus, when half through the period he writes to his brother:—

"In regard to money I cannot at present command 5 guineas. I have £120 in two friends' hands, from whom I cannot yet demand it, £20, I lately sent to T. Erskine,

of Edinburgh" (probably for some assistance given whilst a student there) "and £50 I paid J. Hunt, on brother Joseph's account, and this, with some little trifling sums, is my all"

And it was not until near the close of this period that his "History of The Putrid Sore Throat" (then almost a plague), which work was considered his masterpiece, brought him into note, and with a sudden bound gave him a large and lucrative practice.

What his views about practice were may be learned by the following extract from Dr. Lettsom's Memoir:—

"Nothing (he says) hurt his feelings more than estimating the profession of Physic upon lucrative advantages; the art of healing he considered in that sacred point of view which connected it with a conscientious principle of action. 'My only wish was to do what little might fall to my share as well as possible, and to banish all thoughts of practising Physic as a money-getting trade, with the same solicitude as I would the suggestions of vice and intemperance.'"

Noble words! which he carried nobly into practice throughout his long career, often refusing fees, with the greatest delicacy, even from those thought by others to be able to pay, and especially from the clergy, of whatever denomination. In many instances he not only refused to take money, but gave handsome sums to those who were in affliction or poverty from illness, amounting in one case to £1,000.

Of his views about housekeeping at this time, a short extract from another letter to his brother says:—

"Thou wilt smile at my singularity when I tell thee that I am determined to know as little about housekeep-

ing as possible. If I can, I'll get a trusty servant, if not, I'll be cheated rather than be confined to marketing, and have to do with bartering and cooking."

Then, after some directions, he adds,

"Thou knows my way, I would have what's good and becoming the situation I am cast into."

That Dr. Fothergill was not without thoughts about marriage during this period is clear; but I think it must be admitted that he was a cool lover, and justified the truth of the adage, "Faint heart ne'er won fair lady." Here are one or two extracts from his letters on this subject:—

"Thou wants to know what progress I make towards *matrimony*; none at all, but advancing years. I hinted once that an overture had been obliquely made. I thought about it a good deal, carefully. I did not trust myself in ——'s company, till accident threw us together at a meeting. Her behaviour there determined my resolutions not to think about her any more in that light. . . . Oh! that P—— was what I wish her, and that it was decreed we should be one and happy. She knows not that I wish it, nor very few except thyself. I shall wait some time longer with great calmness, and only wish that everything may happen for the best, whether agreeable to my inclination or not.

"I am happy in an employment that suits my disposition, that has thus far supported me decently, and preserves me in a great degree independent, and respected among my acquaintance. For this I am thankful; I pray to be more so, and to live as becomes such favours. Solitary, absent from my nearest relations, weak and contemptible, I am kept from repining at anything that occurs to me."

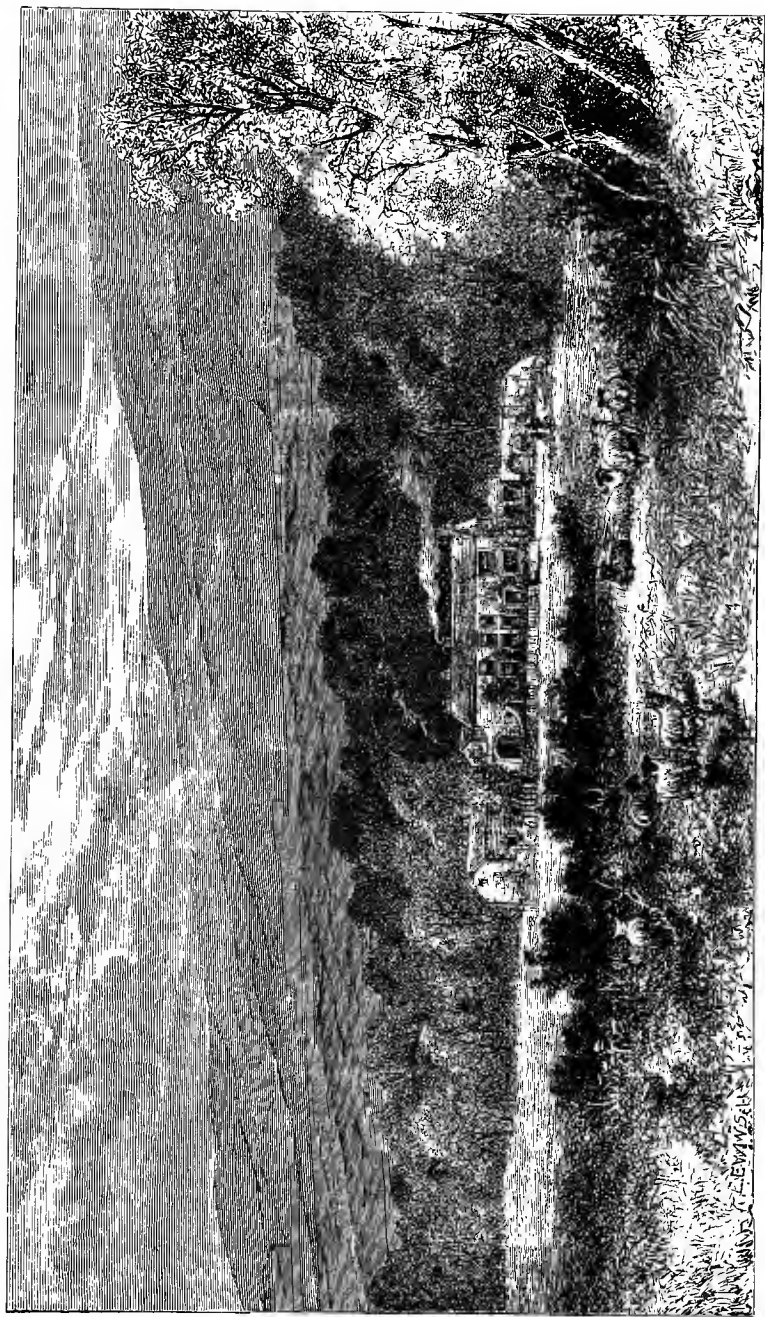
Later on he writes—

“My not having a companion to take care of a friend, if I am called out, often deprives me of their company; but this I must for the present bear, as I don't know how to remedy the inconvenience, as I am still in the dark with regard to ——'s family, having not yet received any answer to a letter I sent to them near three months ago. I can't think of engaging in any fresh pursuit; however I shall pay just deference to thy opinion. . . .”

The result of it all was, that he never married.

During this first decade we find him very actively engaged (young as he was) in the interests of the Society of Friends, and as a member of the Meeting for Sufferings—at that time rather more entitled to its name than is now the case—he was appointed correspondent for Staffordshire, and speaks of the Friends as his “constituents,” and of himself as their “representative,” much as a Member of Parliament would do now.

In this period (1745) the Scotch invasion occurred, and as the Pretender's troops advanced as far as Derby, great alarm was naturally felt, not only by his Staffordshire constituents; but by Friends generally, and it is evident that considerable difference of opinion arose as to the course of action to be pursued by Friends. A paper was issued by the Meeting for Sufferings which the Doctor did not approve of, thinking that it lowered the testimony of Friends against war; and with no small difficulty, and some speech-making, he used his influence to have another paper substituted for it, for the uncompromising tone of which he was much blamed by some, but which eventually ruled the Society of Friends.



CARR-END, SEMMER WATER, WENSLEYDALE, THE BIRTHPLACE OF DR. JOHN FOTHERGILL.

(FROM A SKETCH BY THE LATE JOHN FOTHERGILL, OF DARLINGTON.)

It was during this period, also, that Dr. Fothergill's justly honoured and beloved father died, of whom Dr. F. subsequently compiled a memoir.

The following words from his last letter to his son close a correspondence which Dr. Fothergill says afforded him the strongest satisfaction that anything in this life could yield. The Father's words are these :—

“ I ask no questions further but to be helped to live to the Ever-living Being the little time He may suffer me to continue on this side the grave. As I have no dependence on human assistance but from thee, nor any correspondence which affords me like comfort and satisfaction, I must beg thy frequent remembrance, and to hear from thee as often and freely as leisure will permit ; and be assured my hearty careful desires for thee in every true good, not only are entwined by the strong ties of nature and affection, but are more rivetted and strengthened by many a gracious spring of living goodness from the Almighty Helper of His people who have trusted and feared Him. Thus, dear Son, farewell, farewell.—J. F.”

After his father's death, the estate of Carr End, containing about 200 acres (then worth about £30 a-year) went to the eldest son, who also practised as a lawyer ; and as the Doctor had only £60 as his share of the family property it is evident that Dr. F. was solely indebted to his own exertions for his position. Even this “ Patter money,” as his sister Ann calls it, he made over to her, adding £40 more of his own. Of Carr End and its surroundings, a few words may not unfitly be inserted here.

There is no need to say a word to a Yorkshire audience

in praise of Wensleydale, with its broad meadow slopes of luxuriant grass running up to the moorland heights above, or downward, amidst the most lovely fringes of trees broken by an occasional "scar" or cliff, to the peaceful river below. Semmerdale, situate at the head of the valley, is one of the numerous smaller valleys, which run nearly at right angles with the larger vale of Wensley, and in which the little stream which flows from the heights above forms, before it enters the Ure, a little lake in the midst of bare, marshy meadows; but the whole are surrounded by low mountainous hills, which give to it a sense of secluded beauty. Towards its southern end, about four miles from Askrigg, Carr End is situated on the rocky road which leads across the hills to Marsett or Kettlewell, at a point where it suddenly drops down nearly to a level with the lake. The house is so shut out from the road by tall trees, and the rock at the foot of which it is built, that, though within a few yards, the traveller is scarcely aware of its existence until almost passed. The house, which faces nearly east, is on the edge of the low meadows which surround the lake, and from the little garden—once kept trim and neat, with its little lawn and flower-beds, but now chiefly devoted to potatoes—there are views both right and left, especially the former, worthy of the pencil of Dr. Fothergill's collateral descendant, the late George William Fothergill (himself an Ackworth scholar), and one of my most intimate friends in early life, whose death cut short a career of great artistic promise. Of the house at Carr End but little can be said. There is a stone let into the gateway by which you enter the garden, on which is carved "J. F., 1677," but the house

is of a later period, and has a neglected, desolate air. The present tenant is a small farmer, and a part of the house is let off to the village schoolmaster; as we saw it in the quiet, fading light of the evening, the plaintive cry of the plover, as it came to us from the moorland, seemed a fitting wail over the departed life of Carr End as it surrounded the boyish days of Dr. Fothergill.

The estate passed away from the Fothergill family so recently as 1841.

Of the interest which he felt in Carr End, we have many instances in his letters to his brother Alexander, who resided there, upon whom he urges planting and other improvements:—

“Remember planting: the time is at hand, and as firs grow with so much expedition, put them down everywhere; whilst young they may be defended, and under their covert every other species of timber will grow.”

In another he says:—“Plant ashes thick on the highway side; by this means half the drip falls on the road, which likewise supplies half the nourishment. I know of no one who has thought of this circumstance. Sow ashes and acorns together; the ashes will shelter the oaks, and may be cut down before those can injure these.”

He mentions that he has sent by vessel, to Hull, “a small bag of acorns, and a cargo of some hundred young elms;” and adds, “I’ll be answerable for all expenses if thou wilt be at the expense of planting them.”

Again he says:—“Thou wilt not forget what I have so often recommended—I mean planting, and to look out for every convenient spot to raise wood in. Young ashes,

I am informed, will thrive well in the more swampy parts. The borders of Simmer Water will suit the experiment well."

Probably much of the timber which at this day surrounds Carr End is the result of these repeated injunctions. Nor was planting the only point. In the same letter he refers to an experiment he had before mentioned, with regard to the making of cheese, and begs his brother to make him one in the manner proposed.

The cattle plague seems to have broken out with great violence about 1748-9, "threatening the worst consequences to the public, and ruin to individuals." He writes with minute directions to his brother about the treatment needed, and on the absolute necessity of separation, and avoiding all possibility of contact between sound and infected cattle.

"In short" (he says) "you have no way left to stop its progress but by keeping your cattle wholly within yourselves. Men may carry the venom in their clothes; horses, dogs, swine, nay fowls, may carry it from one place to another."

He advocates the stopping of all markets and fairs, and indeed the letters might with advantage have been published during the early part of the recent outbreak which inflicted so heavy a loss upon the country. Small-pox seems about the same period to have been rife; and he writes to his brother, at Carr End, one of whose family had died of the complaint, strongly advising inoculation for the other.

"I should earnestly advise inoculation" (he says), "'tis an operation easily to be performed, and in the manner I

am going to direct it is seldom with any ill effects. In common, those who have it in this way get through without the least danger. A common sewing thread, of moderate thickness, may be drawn through a ripe spot in such a manner as that some part of the thread may be a little moistened with the matter. . . . Then, with the point of a needle, make a small scratch on the skin a little below the knee, either inside or out; cut off a short bit of the thread (for instance the eighth part of an inch, or less,) and lay this on the little bleeding scratch; cover it with any kind of sticking-plaster, and the whole is done."

He then goes on to describe the usually mild form of the complaint—which will begin on the eighth day after—gives directions, and adds:—

"As I am clearly convinced that by procuring the disease in this slight manner will be of great advantage, so I cannot but warmly recommend it to all who have numerous families of hopeful issue, and have paternal regard enough to wish them safe through a most loathsome disorder. Thy loving brother," &c.

In another he expresses a hope that the school at Countersett (a village about a mile from Carr End, where the Meeting-house which they attended was situated,) will not be allowed to drop. "Any expense I will willingly defray." Nor was it only as regards the outward or material benefit of this brother and his family that he was so much in earnest. Here is one among many instances of his brotherly care and advice:—

"Endeavour to be to thy family what our father was to us. So will Providence bless thy care, and make them a blessing in old age. Thou knows my wishes, my views,

—let me say my hopes—that thou wilt understand the seduction that lies near thee, and, I confess, to us both. But greater will be the triumph, if, with capacity to please, we rather choose to follow the dictates of simple unpleasing truth, and thus become fools for Christ's sake—the hardest of all lessons to many."

Before leaving this period we may notice as a proof of the high estimation of his friends that he was appointed Clerk to the Yearly Meeting for the year 1749, at the age of thirty-seven, the sixteenth Clerk from Benjamin Bealing, who held the appointment from the time of George Fox to 1722.

We also find him reading papers before the Royal Society, upon Amber and Siberia, &c., as early as 1743 or 1744.

Entering upon a second decade (*i.e.* between 1750 and 1760) we find that, "failing matrimony," his sister Ann came to reside with him, who lived with him during the thirty remaining years of his life. He often speaks of her in his letters in terms of the warmest affection and appreciation. Let one extract suffice. Writing to his brother Alexander (1755) he says:—

"Sister Ann is still poorly, . . . but I hope she will soon be restored to her usual, if not better, health, and be long my sister, my companion, my friend, and my example."

The sister herself, who devoted her life to the Doctor, in writing to her brother Alexander, says:—

"I have my health at present just as well as before I came here, being under the care of a kind, affectionate brother and physician, who often orders some little thing

or other to recruit my constitution, and endeavours to inspire (me) with cheerfulness and ease."

She goes on to describe the life in her new house:—

"A new scene of life it is to me, where a multitude of occurrences attend to engage, divert, or amaze. Singular I am, and so I hope to continue, in my dress; the antic folly I observe does not incite me to imitate. Brother's extensive acquaintance and esteem exposes me at present to a pretty deal of company. . . . He has employ for every hour of his time, and is anxiously careful to execute his business well, that so much intense study and fatigue keeps him very thin, and he is *generous beyond a wish*. I came here in great fear. I find I am very deficient; but brother is not for dismissing me. He'll bear with imperfections, or try to improve me awhile longer."

Then we find pleasant intercourse constantly kept up between the family at Carr End and White Hart Court. Sister Ann sends clothes for the family, and they in return send "Yorkshire hams, hung beef, oatmeal, which they cannot obtain in London, and are very good," she says, "and which make an agreeable part of many a regaile.* I borrowed a bake stone, scarce expecting to see such a thing in town, and made some oate bread, which several thought a *choice regaile*, and of which luckily the Doctor is very fond, and which often makes up the greatest part of his supper."

The following letter is so descriptive, and gives so vivid a picture of the Doctor's life at this time, that we give it nearly entire:—

* A genuine Saxon word, worthy to be recoined.

DR. FOTHERGILL TO ALEXANDER FOTHERGILL,

London, 12/1, 1753.

"DEAR BROTHER,

" . . . My time is much less my own than ever, and if I live must still be less so for a season. My business is not the most gainful. Many, very many, I attend as a duty, which costs me labour and some thought, yet all my business is not of this kind. I have a greater income than ever I expected, but my expenses are likewise large, and as it is but very lately that I was fairly upon a level ; so it will be long, if I live, ere I get so much as to maintain me with less labour. I generally go out at nine, and am traversing the streets till two or past. I then come home to dinner, and, if not called out before, I begin again about four, and have something to do till between seven and eight, now and then till nine. It would perhaps surprise thee to hear that the last year afforded me not less than £1,800 and that I spent not much less than £1,000, yet this is not far from the truth.

" I imagine that my business is greatly magnified ; but so intimate a friend, so near a relation, ought to be better informed.

" When I consider my beginning, progress, and present condition, a youth, a stranger, with little money, without friends, being utterly unknown in the place, and that from thence in the space of about seventeen years, two of which were wholly spent in improvement here, I should be favoured so far, it raises many a serious and sometimes grateful consideration and acknowledgment to a Power whose great name I am not worthy to mention.

" Thy son I hope will be taken suitable care of at Coz Gilbert Thompson's. The expense I shall cheerfully defray. As to Jane, I shall do my part and do it with pleasure in order to convince thee of the unfeigned affection I bear thee as my brother and my father's son. Thy kind presents at length came safe and were acceptable. . . .

" Farewell, and be assured that I am thy affectionate brother,

" J. FOTHERGILL.

" Pray remember me to the worthy Justice (Metcalfe). "

The words, "The expense I shall cheerfully defray," occur again and again in the correspondence with his family. Whenever a niece was to be married, or a nephew to be educated, whenever a brother needed help, the Doctor's generous, loving aid, is given unsparingly, and without thought as to his own future wants.

Dr. Fothergill began during this period to publish in the *Gentleman's Magazine* a monthly report of the weather and temperature, chiefly in relation to disease, and regularly continued it for several years (1751-6), when the press of his engagements, combined with other causes, compelled him to give up this most useful and very interesting work. One great object which he had in view was to excite other experienced physicians in various parts of the country to imitate his example, that by a comparison of their united observations new truths in the science of healing might be discovered. In this, unhappily, he was disappointed, no one responding to his wish. Small-pox, for instance, and the causes from which it seemed to him to arise, are frequently mentioned, and the practice of inoculation—just then beginning to attract observation—advocated. The yearly deaths from this complaint, in London alone, were sometimes 2,600; and this, we must remember, in a population under a million.

He may be said to have been the pioneer in the road to those meteorological observations which we all now consider so important. There was at this time no registration of deaths or births, and burials, and Dr. Fothergill used all his influence to effect this most desirable object; but it was not until some years after his death that this was carried out, and the Bills of Mortality were reduced to a system.

It was during this period (1754) that he was elected a Fellow of the College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

John Wesley was one of his patients during this time; but, ill as he was, his earnest spirit did not allow him to carry out the Doctor's advice to rest and repair to the Hot Wells at Bristol for change. Probably, like his comrade Whitfield, he thought "that *perpetual preaching* was a better remedy than a perpetual blister."

It is characteristic of the two men that, during the war with France, whilst Dr. Fothergill was doing all in his power to point out the folly and injustice of the quarrel, John Wesley was offering to raise 200 of his converts as a volunteer corps.

"Man," says Dr. Fothergill, "whose passions ought to be humanised in the school of Him who invariably recommended peace on earth, can never become the *natural foe* of man, . . . even were religion of no avail; *interest*, one might imagine, would urge him to the communication of mutual benefits. . . . Habit has rendered the language of '*natural enemy*' familiar to national prejudice *as regards France*, yet," he adds (in advance of modern politicians), "even France might be united to us by interest and friendship were we to encourage mutual intercourse in trade, instead of interdicting it by severest restraints.

"Whilst she takes of our woollens, our hardware, or other heavy articles, we might receive in exchange her wines, and other articles which the gaiety of the people or the constitution of the soil, seem better adapted to produce."

What the Doctor's views were in regard to the great revival under Wesley we have no means of knowing ; and I do not find the slightest notice of that great religious movement of the eighteenth century which has since affected every town and village, nay every hamlet, in England, and is felt throughout the English-speaking world.

With the third decade, beginning in 1760, the year in which George III. came to the throne,* we have evidence of his interest in the educational work in the Society of Friends, as we find him presenting a report of a committee of the Meeting for Sufferings to the Yearly Meeting on Education. It refers especially to the need for the better encouragement of schoolmasters and schoolmistresses in the various counties.

He was now forty-eight years of age, in the full vigour of his active intellect, and with an ever-increasing practice, "the whirl of dissipation" and "cruel service," as his sister calls it, also increased ; but it was not his practice alone which filled up every moment of his time. Devoted as he was to his patients and the study of medicine, these formed but a portion of the work which he undertook—chemistry, conchology, entomology, corallines, and above all botany,—filled up the moments which he could spare from the active work of his profession.

In order to carry out his botanical researches he sought for ground in the immediate neighbourhood of London,

* Dr. F. wrote the address of congratulation sent by the Society of Friends to the King on his accession to the Crown.

and found a sheltered spot on the Surrey side of the Thames, in every respect suitable. The proprietor being willing to sell, he was about to complete the purchase, when he found that it was let to a tenant whose whole family depended on its produce, and "whose misery was inevitable had he expelled them from this fruitful soil." He therefore refused the offer, adding, that that could never afford gratification to him which entailed misery on another, and, in addition, nobly presented the family with the intended purchase-money.

Soon afterwards (1762) he purchased the gardens at Upton, so well known in after days as the hospitable residence and grounds of the late Samuel Gurney. It contained at that time a house, garden, and about thirty acres of land, afterwards increased to about sixty acres. The garden contained about five or six acres. "Here," says Gilbert Thompson, "his active mind had ample room to expatiate and indulge in its private pursuits. In launching out into the extraordinary expense which must attend so large an undertaking, his great design was to enrich his garden and grounds, and hence his own nation, with many rare and new productions of the vegetable kingdom, such as might not only embellish any gardens, but by their curious structure and properties be objects of scientific speculation, or (which was his primary intention) be subservient to the interests of his country and to the common good.

"With these views he spared no pains, no cost, in establishing a correspondence with almost every part of the globe, and his wishes happily succeeded in procuring a vast quantity of plants and seeds from China and the East and West Indies, from Siberia and the Alps, North

America, and the newly-discovered islands, as well as from Africa,—that stupendous garden of vegetable beauty.

“His garden, formed upon this extensive plan, and yearly improving by large supplies of the more rare indigenous plants and new exotics, arrived at length to that pitch of excellence as to be esteemed the second in Europe, the Royal Gardens at Kew alone deserving the pre-eminence.” He employed here, it is said, fifteen gardeners.

It is thus described at the time:—

“On the banks of a winding canal rare and exotic shrubs flourished. In the midst of winter, evergreens were clothed in full verdure, without exposure to the open air; a glass door from the house gave entrance to a suite of hot and green-houses, nearly 260 feet in extent, containing upwards of 3,400 species of exotics, whose foliage was a perpetual verdure, and in the open ground in summer nearly 3,000 distinct species of plants and shrubs vied with the natives of Asia and Africa.

“That science might not suffer a loss when a plant he had cultivated should die, he liberally paid the best artists to draw the new ones as they came to perfection; and so numerous were they that he found it needful to employ three or four artists in order to keep pace with their increase. His garden was known all over Europe. Foreigners of all ranks asked permission to see it.”

The extent to which we are now indebted to Dr. Fothergill may be partially learned by the following account, for which I have to thank my friend J. G. Baker, F.R.S., of Kew:—

“A list of the plants that were in his greenhouses at the time of his death was published by Dr. Lettsom, and

as the names were very carefully determined by his friend Solander of the British Museum (the best botanist then living in England), the document, of which we possess a copy at Kew, possesses great value in connection with the history of Gardening in England.

“Dr. Fothergill frequently offered rewards for the introduction into this country, or the colonies, of plants of medicinal value. For instance, he offered a premium of £100 to two captains of ships for living plants of the Winter's Bark (*Cortex Winteranus*), a native of extra tropical South America, and named after Captain Winter, who used it as a remedy for scurvy.

“He tried (but without success) to obtain plants of the Cinchona, a native of the Andes, the most valuable of all known vegetable medicines.

“He also attempted to introduce into our West Indian Colonies the Bread-Fruit Tree and the Mangosteen; the former from Polynesia and the Indian Archipelago, where it forms the staple food of the islanders, and the latter, which is about the size of an orange, and has the reputation of being the most delicious of all tropical fruits, from the Straits of Malacca.

“Dr. Fothergill employed as one of his collectors a Friend named Bartram (after whom a genus of Mosses was named) to travel through the Southern United States. Another was employed in the Alps, and one at the Cape of Good Hope. He was one of the earliest to import and spread into English gardens the *Kalmias*, *Rhododendrons*, *Maples*, and other shrubs from the Western hemisphere, and to honour his memory, an American shrub, the genus *Fothergilla*, was named after him by the younger

Linnaeus. The French Botanist, Aublet, also named a genus *Fothergilla*, after him, now called *Miconia Fothergilli*. Other plants perpetuate his memory, among which may be noticed—'Fothergill's Lily' (*Nerine Fothergilli*) and *Calceolaria Fothergilli*. He is best remembered in horticulture as the raiser of Fothergill's Geranium (*Pelargonium Fothergilli*) one of the earliest races of the zone-leaved Cape Geraniums, which are now so popular. Specimens of the more interesting plants grown in his garden were given by him to Sir Joseph Banks, and are now preserved in the great National Herbarium at the British Museum."

At Upton, of which Dr. Fothergill says "there is a forest on one side, not populous, and a Meeting," he sought occasionally for a little quiet from the excessive hurry of his London life; but it was too near to afford him the relief he needed. Importunate patients could send to him, and he could not resist their appeals.

So we find him writing from Upton, under date of 15th of Tenth Month, 1764, to his brother Samuel Fothergill, at Warrington:—

"At Upton, 15th of Tenth Month, 1764.

"DR. FOTHERGILL TO SAMUEL FOTHERGILL.

"One day it came into my thoughts, unsought for, to retreat a few months next summer into Cheshire, and it seemed easy to me to do so, and some part of the country not far from Middlewich seemed pointed at. . . . I am looking for quiet in a place where I have no acquaintance, yet not far from those I most love. My AIM IS QUIET, and if I can procure some decent abode not far from a meeting, not far from a market, in a situation not unhealthy, not very populous, where we may have room enough to entertain

a friend and live not uncomfortably, be the terms what they may, we shall be satisfied. I want nothing great, or elegant, or expensive ; but if nothing but what is such can be had I would submit."

Then there is a brisk correspondence between the brothers, which ends in the Doctor taking "Lea Hall," about four miles from Crewe, for a term. In this correspondence we find him sending a present of books to his brother, also to his uncle Hough, "To whom," he adds, "I wish to give every mark of grateful remembrance in my power."

The following summer we find him writing to his brother that he intends "to leave home in the Seventh Month, and so to reach our quarters by Third-day night"—probably four or five days on the road with his own horses and carriage. He proposes to send two maids, to be there a few days in advance, so as to have all in neat order for "Sister Ann and myself." The goods (five cases) needed are sent down by vessel to Liverpool, smaller packages are sent by carrier. He adds:—

"Please procure for us, and send to Lea Hall,
2 gallons of the best French Brandy,
3 do. of good Mountain (Wine),
1 or 2 dozen of very good White Wine,
6 gallons of good red Port,
rather new, as little bordering on the acid as may be. A
rough, good-bodied wine I like best."

The order may seem large in these teetotal days, but I do not know that five or six dozen was an excessive quantity to be laid down in the cellar of this hospitable

retreat to which, though he aimed at quiet, his friends were constantly invited. Writing again to his brother, he says:—

“I am thankful, repeatedly thankful, for the prospect of this recess; . . . and I esteem it as I ought *as a means of escaping by degrees from labour next to oppression.* Much I owe to the public, and honestly have I endeavoured to repay the obligation. May they never want persons better qualified than myself to serve them! On me the world has not frowned. I courted not its favours nor feared the reverse. It is time, however, to think of getting into port, and as the wind serves I hope to make use of it.”

Lea Hall as it now exists is not a taking place; the country around is low and damp, and it is a matter of surprise that the Dalesman should have selected this spot for his retirement, unless it be on the ground that, excepting those who sought his own society, the place presented no attraction. To him the early associations with Cheshire, where he had lived in childhood with his mother's family, doubtless presented great attractions, and there was also the further pleasure of his brother Samuel's society who resided comparatively near, at Warrington.

But the Lea Hall of to-day, with its dismantled gate-posts and weedy gardens, and neglected, desolate paths, must not be thought of as the place of Dr. Fothergill's retreat. Then it was doubtless a pleasant country house, built in the Queen Anne period, and much like many of the smaller French chateaux which one sees in the country districts of France, with its trimmed-walled garden and orchard, and bowling-alley, and fish-pond, and pavilions. The interior

of the house, like the exterior, is now neglected and out of repair. The rooms are lofty and panelled throughout, and doubtless when the good Doctor and the neat sister Ann and her trim housemaids held court there; and the big coachman and the black horses and post-chaise filled the courtyard, the scene was as great a contrast as possible to the neglected, deserted rooms, and the poor half-blind farmer ("nearly dark" as a neighbour called him), and his stout wife and daughter hard at work at the cheese-press, whom we found there when we visited Lea Hall this spring.

From 1765 to the year of his death he regularly retired for the autumn months to Lea Hall. Here he wrote up his arrears of scientific or other correspondence, which extended to most parts of the civilised world, spending four hours a day in writing. Here, too, he enjoyed at times the society of his brother Samuel and of his nephews and nieces, and a few intimate friends—medical and scientific.

It is not improbable that the vicinity of Etruria—where Wedgwood was then carrying out his perfect, beautiful work, bringing home to the simple and unlearned the exquisite sense of beauty which exists in Greek art, and which he subordinated to the everyday purposes of life—led him to form, at this time, a friendship with the "Great Potter." As we know from Miss Meteyard's life of Wedgwood, Dr. Fothergill often corresponded with Josiah Wedgwood, to whom his exact chemical knowledge was of value, and he also took especial interest in the question of the clays of North America, then imported in small quantities from the Cherokee and Pensacola districts, but which have since been superseded by our own Cornish clays.

The black bust which we have before us to-day, of Wedgwood-ware, is from a model taken by Flaxman after the death of Dr. Fothergill, as we find in Wedgwood's Memoirs the following entry:—

“Mr. Wedgwood to J. Flaxman.

“May 20, 1781.—Moulding a bust of Dr.

“Fothergale £1 4s. od.”

Two busts of Rousseau and Sterne figure in the same bill at 16s.

It is probable that the beautiful cameo likeness now reproduced was also modelled by Flaxman.*

Whilst at Lea Hall he devoted one day in each week to attending the poor, gratis, at Middleswich, the nearest market town, and, in order to lessen the applications of more wealthy patients, who followed him to his retirement, he took no fees. As an illustration of the great fame which the Doctor enjoyed, it may be mentioned, that on his journeys to and from Lea Hall, he was intercepted (often to his annoyance) at every stopping-place by patients or apothecaries who desired to obtain his advice.

We find during this term Dr. Fothergill and his sister paying a visit to Carr End (1763). Driving from Scarborough (whither he had retreated for a while to recover strength) by way of Thirsk, where he asks his brother Alexander to meet him in order “to show them the way,” he hopes to “drive from thence to Askrigg or Bainbridge in a day and a-half.”

* It is a curious instance of the incorrectness of historians that the cameo likeness figured at page 7 in Miss Meteyard's “Life of Wedgwood,” as that of Dr. Fothergill, from the Mayer collection, is not his likeness at all.

“We fancy” (he says) “we can get to Bainbridge in our carriage, and leave it there, or at Askrigg, with our horses and servants; only the saddle-horse to carry me, and thou must get one, either double or single, to carry sister.”

He hopes to reach Carr End on Seventh-day evening, and to attend Meeting with them next day, and then to Lancaster the following day (so he does not stay long in the old home), and adds :—

“Give thyself no uneasiness about our entertainment. Nothing will come amiss to us but thy family’s too great concern about our accommodation. Remember we have lived there, and yet can do with great content if you will permit it”

We should like to have seen the cavalcade as, leaving the admiring awe-struck crowd of villagers at Bainbridge, it wound up the hilly rocky road to Carr End. The great London Doctor, with cocked hat and big wig, in light drab suit and drab silk stockings, sitting upright on his horse, with sister Ann in light drab bonnet and habiliments of the plainest sort on a pillion, escorted by brother Alexander, let us hope in Dalesman’s costume.

Towards the close of this decade (1767), Dr. Fothergill removed from White Hart Court to Harpur Street, then a newly-built street (for the house was not finished when they took possession of it). Writing of this change of residence Dr. Fothergill says :—

“We find a great difference between Harpur Street and the City; we have almost an hour more daylight. I keep at home to see patients only on Third and Fifth-day afternoons, by which means I have Second, Fourth

and Sixth-day afternoons more at liberty, and I hope gradually to lessen both my business and all my incumbrances."

Later he says—

"I am in treaty to let Upton. I find it embarrassing in point of time, though managed with frugality, expensive. I shall preserve the liberty of the garden and part of its produce, but quit all further use of it for a lease of seven years. What seeds I receive will be taken care of, and I contribute to the support of the gardens."

He had, in fact, found that he could rarely visit his beloved gardens, and Lea Hall, and the change to Harpur Street had prevented the need of another country house. The writer well remembers, when a boy, on his first visit to Upton, being shown by the late Samuel Gurney many of the rare shrubs in the garden; and also being told the tradition that Dr. Fothergill had so little time to visit the place by day-light that he used to come down in the evening and go round the garden to inspect his favourite plants with a lantern. A few of his shrubs still linger in the garden, which is now converted into a People's Park.

Dr. Fothergill's love of botany brought him into correspondence with the celebrated Linnæus, and he not only generously helped, but superintended the great and expensive botanical work of John Millar, published to illustrate the Linnæan system. He also largely assisted the authors of other scientific books, as, for example, Dr. Russell's "History of Aleppo" (afterwards writing a Memoir of Dr. Russell), and Dr. Cleghorn's "Diseases of Minorca;" Edwards' beautiful work on the "Birds of Great Britain," and Drury's "Entomology," were largely assisted by him.

Nor must the munificent assistance which Dr. Fothergill rendered to Anthony Purver, in the translation and publication of his version of the Old and New Testaments, be overlooked. Not only did he give pecuniary assistance, to the extent of two thousand pounds, to the translator (a poor self-taught man), but, it is said, revised the whole of the sheets as they passed through the press, and subsequently did all in his power by recommendation or gift to promote the circulation of the folio.

We pass on now to the last decade of his life, which alone is connected with Ackworth School—1770 to 1780, in the closing days of which he died.

The removal from White Hart Court to Harpur Street did not lessen his work; for, though he lost many of his City patients, those who came from the West-end were even more numerous and exacting, and again and again we find both the Doctor and his sister speaking in the strongest terms of the excessive hurry and fatigue of his busy life.

“My brother is at the full stretch continually, of what his faculties of both body and mind can sustain. He drags himself about from eight in the morning to near five, which is now our hour to dine. He eats a morsel in almost impatient hurry, and is out again about six till near nine or ten; then comes home, scarce able to get upstairs, and then sits down to write until eleven or twelve.” And, again, she speaks of the “anxious fatigue and solicitude impressed on his countenance.”

So great was his practice during this period that it is said he had sixty patients on his daily list in the year 1775, when influenza was very rife; but we suspect that his

income (then stated to be £7,000 or £8,000 a-year) was not so large in reality, from his extreme generosity and unwillingness to take fees from his patients. Quaker as he was, he would not take pay from clergymen, and numberless are the instances known in which he not only refused fees, but gave large sums to patients whom he thought needing help. There were also at this period many and increasing objects which claimed his deepest sympathy—the loss, also, of his much-loved brother Samuel saddened and depressed him.

The condition of the French prisoners of war, who were left rotting in barracks and prisons in various parts of England, deeply moved him; and he and other Friends joined in a large subscription raised throughout the country for their help, of which the Society of Friends raised one-fourth part. He was also selected by the Government to inquire into the terrible mortality raging amongst the Spanish prisoners in Winchester Prison, and had the selection of a competent physician intrusted to him, who soon reduced the daily deaths from twenty-one or more to a minimum.

Jointly with Howard, the distinguished philanthropist, whose friendship he enjoyed and with whom he heartily co-operated, we find him working at the prisons and making suggestions for the employment and separation of *convicts*, and for the formation of penitentiaries; nor did the question of slavery escape his attention. Then, again, at home the subject of canals, the condition of the streets of London,—the absence of pavements, the narrowness and filthiness of the streets,—the need for increased and more direct communication from one part of the City to another, the police,

and general administration of City matters, all claimed his vigilant eye; and it is said that on the improvement of the streets alone he wrote upwards of one hundred letters to the papers.

One of the last letters which he wrote, little more than a month before his death, was addressed to the River Lea Company, suggesting to them to cut down the trees on the banks of the river in consequence of the injury caused to the water by the decomposition of their leaves, and urging them to establish public baths for men and boys, as well as for women and girls, at a low rate—6d., 3d. and 1d.!

Nor did the careless mode of the burial of the dead then common, with large pits for the poor, usually in crowded parts of the City, and often very offensive, escape his attention. He advocated the removal of the burial-grounds to open places, mentioning Moorfields as a desirable place; and also the establishment of public cemeteries "executed with decent elegance and suited for any degree of citizenship."

Jointly with David Barclay and some others, he formed a plan for supplying the poor and others with fish and potatoes by land carriage, breaking down a monopoly which kept up the price too high; and in the time of scarcity advocated the use of Indian corn or potatoes mixed with wheat, causing proper directions to be printed and distributed among the bakers and others.

That the excessive rigour of the Criminal Code, which at that time made the gallows the punishment of an infinite variety of crimes, and probably condemned upwards of 1,500 men, women, and children to Tyburn during the forty years the Doctor resided in London, did not claim his

attention, seems strange to us now; and not less remarkable does it appear that, except for the passing remark of one of his biographers "that his sympathising manner was helpful to the mind diseased," we find no trace of any attention to disorders of the mind. The Doctor wrote treatises on sore throat, on influenza, on consumption, on sick headache, but never refers to insanity—though the subject must constantly have been forced upon his attention in his immense practice.

The time had not yet come for the great and blessed reform in the criminal code which we have witnessed, nor for the introduction of any rational treatment of mental disorders; and it was reserved for another Yorkshireman—a colleague of the Doctor's in his great educational work at Ackworth—to commence at the York Retreat, a few years after Dr. Fothergill's death, that system of mild and sensible treatment of the insane which has since been universally adopted throughout the civilised world.

But above all during this period the conflict, *impending* at first but afterwards *actual*, between England and America, excited his deepest attention. He had protested against war with France,—a nation whom he says we call "our natural enemy;"—but here was the question of war between brothers, "a fratricidal war involving the lives of perhaps 100,000 fellow-men taken from the loom or from tillage."

We can perhaps hardly now estimate the closeness of the family ties which then bound the two nations together.

Dr. Fothergill's days were not separated by more than 100 years from the departure of the first Pilgrim Fathers, and by much less from the Earlier Friends who sought an asylum in the New World, and from that date there had

been a continuous stream of emigration of thoughtful and well-to-do men belonging to the class among whom he moved. In addition, Dr. Fothergill's father and brother Samuel had kept up, by their frequent visits to the settlements of Friends, a warm friendship with many in America. Dr. Fothergill's house was also the rendezvous of the various noted American ministers who came to visit their English brethren.

He was thus, both by knowledge and natural sympathy, warmly attached to his American Friends, and alive to all that related to their welfare. He had freely assisted them in their schools at New York, Philadelphia, and other places; he had proposed plans for their adoption, for improving and giving work to the Indians, and had many correspondents, from some of whom he received political information, and from others new and rare plants and other objects of interest. Patients, too, attracted by his fame, braved the dangers of a six-weeks' voyage to obtain the benefit of his advice.

A few years before, he had written a most admirable pamphlet of thirty pages, entitled "Considerations relative to the North American Colonies," in which he justly says:—

"There is scarcely a more important subject can occupy the attention than the war, being a contest with near two millions of English subjects descended from and inseparably connected with ourselves." And further on he adds, "If we inquire into the conduct of the wisest States of former days, to their distant colonies, we shall find it always to have been to treat them with kindness and indulgence; to engage them to look back to the mother country with duty and affection, and to recom-

pense the protection they have enjoyed by the produce of their labour, their commerce, and, when needed, their assistance. We meet not with many instances, comparatively, even of distant conquered countries revolting, till causes of strong disgust had sown the seeds of discontent, and succeeding acts of oppression and injustice had ripened them into rebellion.

“Colonies sprung from Britain,” he observed, “will bear much, but it is to be remembered that they are the sons of freedom; and what they have been early taught to look upon as virtue, in their ancestors, will not soon be forgotten by themselves; nay they will the sooner be apt to vindicate their wrongs.”

With Benjamin Franklin, who at that time was in Europe seeking to obtain a settlement of the points in dispute with the mother country, he formed a friendship, and had frequent negotiations and discussions. In these negotiations he was assisted by his friend David Barclay, who shared his views. Here is a short note, under date of the Tenth Month, 1774, written in the early morning to David Barclay, who lived in Red Lion Square, not far from Harpur Street:—

“I came home last night at ten o'clock extremely fatigued. I could not forbear giving perhaps a very strong proof of it. If the enclosed remarks are worthy of the least notice, I wish we could see one another this morning before nine o'clock.”

This paper was intended as the basis of measures for obtaining a speedy and honourable settlement of the pending dispute, and was afterwards submitted to Dr. Franklin, who accepted in the main the Doctor's sugges-

tions. It is a paper honourable alike to his clear understanding and judgment, and the impartiality with which he viewed the points in dispute. Had it been adopted, as was at one time hoped, by our Government, as the basis for a settlement with her great North American provinces, England might probably have been spared the war, and the Colonies have obtained a free Constitution.

As a Yorkshireman he ever took a deep interest in all that related to his native county, and, prior to the General Assembly of Electors, held at York, in December, 1779, he addressed a letter (intended no doubt for the meeting) to his friend Henry Zouch, the clergyman of Sandal, in which he speaks in trenchant language of the injury resulting to the country from the policy of the Government.

“There is one necessary point which I think you ought, in the first place, to state most clearly—the general decay of the *county*—and *keep close to your own county*—manufactures declining, commerce languishing, value of land decreasing, public improvements at a standstill, bankruptcies numerous, taxes increasing, multitudes distressed. . . Pray, therefore, that peace may be restored between us and America, as the only means of saving your country from every species of calamity; the war with that country and its consequences being the general cause of these distresses.

“Once more excuse me,—if I am taking a liberty unbecoming me,—the honour of our county, the good of the country in general, is at stake. If you ask for what is EVIDENTLY ‘great and right’ your example will be followed by all.”

Notwithstanding the intense pressure of all these

varied engagements, we find that he was an Elder, and became a member of the Yearly Meeting's Committee, appointed to visit the Meetings of Friends in the various counties of England. He was thus engaged for many weeks, chiefly in Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Westmoreland, and it was whilst thus engaged that he paid his last visit to Carr End, in 1777.

It may have been that these visits, and the ignorance he found in many quarters, gave additional force to his long-cherished desire to see a sound and Christian education more generally valued, and made accessible to all classes in the Society of Friends. Be this as it may, it was in this year that he succeeded in giving a practical shape to his very long-cherished wish; and we now come to that point in our narrative which, extending over the three remaining years of Dr. Fothergill's life, gives the History of the Establishment of Ackworth School, which was, as Luke Howard justly called it, "The Era of a Reformation in our Religious Society."* And was not this truly a New Era, which laid the foundation of the sound, practical and religious education, which has to a large extent been the model of the more extended Educational System, which during the past hundred years has placed within easy reach of the humblest member of the Society of Friends an Education such as the wisest men of the present day, having recognised the want of for the numerous class in England "not in affluence," are now seeking to establish throughout the length and breadth of the land?

* "The Yorkshireman," by Luke Howard.

Throughout the period extending from 1700 to 1777 the subject of Education was frequently and pressingly brought forward by the Yearly Meeting. This was strikingly the case during the earlier years of this period, and not less so, later on, from about the year 1750, and forward. This is not the place to go into this interesting question; but up to 1777 it is believed that the school at Gildersome, established by Brighthouse Monthly Meeting, and the "School Fund" of York Quarterly Meeting, were the only visible or practical results of this deep concern. That Dr. Fothergill took a zealous interest in this movement there cannot be a doubt. He was one of the most active members of the Meeting for Sufferings from 1745 to the date of his death in 1780; and, as has already been stated, he presented to the Yearly Meeting of 1760 a Report, from the Education Committee of the Meeting for Sufferings earnestly advocating the subject. This Report is a long and interesting one, and bears the stamp of Dr. Fothergill's style, and has especial reference to the "better encouragement of schoolmasters and mistresses in the various counties."

But to return to the year 1777, which may be considered as the year in which Ackworth School—the centenary of which we celebrate to-day—was conceived.

The Yearly Meeting of 1777—the year of the Inception of Ackworth School—passed the following minute:—

"It being the judgment of this Yearly Meeting that encouragement for Boarding Schools suitable for the education of children whose parents are not in affluence will be advantageous, the consideration of a plan proper to this purpose is referred to the Meeting for Sufferings,

to be laid before the Meeting next year, to which Friends in the country are desired to give their attention and assistance. (*Yearly Meeting, 1777.*)”

The question naturally arises, What led to the selection of Ackworth as the place for carrying out this intention of the Yearly Meeting? The answer is found in Dr. Fothergill's own account of the transaction, which we take from his printed Letter to a Friend in the Country.

“Whilst I was in Yorkshire, in the autumn of 1777, mention was casually made of Ackworth Hospital. That it was on sale, and would probably be sold for a very moderate price, compared with the sum that it had cost. Though I had not seen the building I had seen and considered a plan of the house, and learned from that and from the report of many who had been on the spot, that the building, the situation, the healthfulness of the country, the plenty of provisions, and the vicinity of many valuable Friends, were such, that if it could be purchased and properly endowed, it might in many respects answer the intention of Friends, and lay the groundwork of an useful and permanent establishment.

“For the information of divers who may not be acquainted with the nature of these premises, it may be necessary to observe that, after the setting on foot the Hospital for Foundling Children in London, the public had great expectations of its utility; large sums were subscribed, and money likewise granted by Parliament, for erecting proper buildings for the reception of great numbers of children. A large hospital was built in London, another near Shrewsbury, in Shropshire, and this at Ackworth, as appendages to that in London, and under

the same direction. The Friends whom I consulted, on my return to London, thought it a matter of such moment, as to deserve attention; and, in pursuance of their opinion, inquiry was made concerning the price. I was given to understand that it was fixed at £7,000; and in a short time after was informed that £6,800 was offered for it by some other person. The Meeting for Sufferings was then consulted, and the state of the affair submitted to their consideration. They wished to have had the matter kept open for the deliberation of the next Yearly Meeting, but this was precluded by the unexpected offer of another purchaser. A number of Friends, in their private capacity, generously stepped forward with an offer to bear the Meeting for Sufferings harmless, should the ensuing Yearly Meeting decline the purchase. This being accepted, a contract was made in the autumn of 1777, and the matter reserved in this state for the deliberation of the following Yearly Meeting in 1778."

Elsewhere it is stated that the Ackworth Hospital had been erected eighteen years, occupied for twelve, and from that time had stood empty, though preserved from decay; and that the house, a strong convenient stone building, with eighty-four acres of land, which had cost the Foundling Hospital £17,000, had been purchased for £7,000.

Doubtless, though he does not mention it, Dr. Fothergill was one of those who, with his friend D. Barclay, thus stepped forward to bear the Meeting for Sufferings harmless. In the negotiations for the purchase of the Ackworth premises it is also clear that Dr. Fothergill had the largest share; and it was not unnatural that as he resided in Harpur Street, within ten minutes' walk of the Foundling

Hospital, he should have conducted the business with the authorities of this Institution ; and in one of the minutes of the Yearly Meeting it is stated that the property had been "contracted for by *one individual*."

In a letter written about this time (autumn, 1777,) to Henry Zouch, the clergyman at Sandal, he says,—

"As we are to take possession at Michaelmas, I thought the Committee of the Foundling Hospital would at least have taken care of their interest till then, and have delivered up the premises in decent order, but on receiving thy obliging letter I applied to one of the Committee, and requested leave to enter at once, on condition of making the Hospital a suitable recompense."

He then goes on to state that the Committee "had granted this permission," and mentions that in the previous year, 1776, the Hospital had received £109 for Gist cattle (or about 30s. per acre for the right of grazing), as the ground had been chiefly pastured, and only nine acres cultivated.

He also adds that he thinks it "will be more consistent with ourselves to relinquish all claims upon the pews in the Church,—They may possibly be generous enough to think them worth some equivalent ; we shall give up our interest to the next rightful owner."

In conclusion, he says :—

"It will be a long time before I shall be able to prevail on many whom it concerns to enter thoroughly into my wishes to promote this establishment, and the times are against me ; but I am not apt to despair. I have contended with difficulty, as every man has who travels on this globe, and must do it cheerfully."

Under date Twelfth Month 24, 1777, we find the following in a letter from sister Ann to her niece Sally Hird,* of Leeds—

“ Brother desires his love to thyself and family, and to say he took it kind that thy husband went with John Hustler (of Bradford) to view Ackworth. The affair is to be concluded next Second-day.”

In the Fifth Month of the following year “ Sister Ann ” again writes to her niece Sally Hird, of Leeds :—

“ That David Barclay and his wife and Thomas Collinson and his wife are coming to Leeds. Their principal inducement to come down now is to view Ackworth, about which many demurs arise as to the propriety of engaging in so large an undertaking. They have a mind to see the premises to enable them better to form a judgment, and to act accordingly. They propose to travel in David Barclay’s coach, taking horses from stage to stage, so as to take less time. They are expected to be absent from home about ten days.”

In the same letter “ Sister Ann ” speaks very feelingly of her brother’s “ *hard servitude* ” in his practice, and of his having “ much to suffer both in body and mind.” No doubt there were many faint-hearted and wavering, and others who opposed him as too sanguine ; but, happily, the report of the visit of his friends D. Barclay and T. Collinson appears to have been satisfactory ; for shortly after their return, under date of Sixth Month 5th, 1778, we find that the Committee of the Meeting for Sufferings brought in the following Minute, which was read, and “ is to go in with the other

* The wife of Dr. Hird, of Leeds, who was devoted to Dr. F., and of whom he afterwards wrote a very interesting memoir.

Minutes to the Yearly Meeting." We give the names of those present at this Committee, and an extract from the Minutes, evidently the writing of Dr. Fothergill, to whom there can be no doubt that we are indebted for the establishment of Ackworth School. Let us repeat the date, and hold these names also in grateful remembrance.

"Met, pursuant to adjournment, the 1st of Sixth Month, 1778.

"Present—Timothy Bevan, Thomas Corbyn, Jacob Hagan, John Eliot, John Wright, John Hill [the future Treasurer], John Townsend, Joseph Row, David Barclay, Daniel Mildred, Robert Howard, Joseph Hooper, Obed Cooke, Henry Sterry, Thomas Horne, William Forster, Owen Weston and John Fothergill.

"We, the Committee appointed to consider of some proposal for the education of children whose parents are not in affluent circumstances, pursuant to the directions of the last Yearly Meeting, have met many times, and employed much serious attention on the subject. Some assistance we have received *from a friend or two* in the country, and wish that many more had been actuated by a like desire to promote this important object. The Committee—well knowing from past experience that great difficulties would arise in the execution of any proposal likely to be attended with expense, and being satisfied that nothing could be effectually done without it—entered upon the consideration of this business under great discouragements. They had recourse to the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting and the Meeting for Sufferings in respect to the education of Friends' children, and found that this subject had been taken up in the Yearly Meeting of 1758 ;

further considered in 1759, and that in 1706 a proposal for the encouragement of schoolmasters had been agreed to, and recommended to the several counties and places. It would seem that from want of proper zeal to promote this important concern, the directions of the Yearly Meeting were not attended to in the counties in general; a few only endeavoured to act agreeable to the plan they had received.

“In our last Yearly Meeting the subject of Education was again revived, and the situation of such Friends as were not of ability, however willing to provide a suitable education for their children, was more particularly taken into consideration, and the Yearly Meeting, with much sympathy and regard, felt the necessity of endeavouring to provide for their relief, and the matter was referred to the Meeting for Sufferings, as well as to Friends in general, in order to consider some practicable method of effecting this very necessary purpose.”

The report then goes into the detail of the purchase of Ackworth Hospital, and concludes with the following words:

“Your Committee have not been able to frame any proposal for the education of such children as are the objects of the Yearly Meeting’s care, so likely to be carried into execution, and to be attended with so beneficial effects, as might be obtained were these premises to become the property of Friends, who thereby would be in possession of a place capable of admitting a large number of children, and might afford an opportunity of forming a practicable plan, for the education of such children as are not in affluent circumstances, according to the direction of the last Yearly Meeting.”

The Yearly Meeting of 1778, to whom the Report was addressed, appointed a large Committee of London and country Friends "to report their sentiments upon the Minute of the Meeting for Sufferings, and to make such further proposal as they may deem expedient."

This Committee, consisting of sixty Friends, contained as the Yorkshire representatives, John Hustler, of Bradford, and William Tuke,* of York, the latter of whom brought in to the Yearly Meeting, at a future sitting, the following Minute:—

"It is the opinion of this Committee that the House and Estate at Ackworth in the County of York, contracted for by consent of the Meeting for Sufferings, should be purchased for the use of the Society; that a liberal subscription be immediately set on foot during the sitting of this Meeting for making this purchase; and that the Meeting for Sufferings should be empowered to borrow on interest, on the lowest terms, such sums of money as may be further necessary to complete the agreement, and establish the intended Institution at Ackworth; the interest to be paid out of the profits of the Estate."

Such was the decided Report of the Yearly Meeting's Committee, which must have cheered the heart of Dr. Fothergill.

After deliberate consideration, the report of its Committee was adopted, and the Yearly Meeting directed that the buildings and Estate at Ackworth, contracted for provisionally at the price of £7,000, be purchased for the use of the Society; and that the following methods for raising the

* The writer's great-grandfather.

sums necessary for completing the purchase, furnishing the house, and establishing a school, be recommended to the several counties, viz., by Donations; by Annuities; by Subscription; by issuing Bills of Admittance, the amount of which was fixed at £8 8s. for one year's education, maintenance, and clothing. It was further directed that the School should be opened in the Third Month of the following year (1779); but from various circumstances it was not actually opened until the Tenth Month of that year.

In the Seventh Month of the same year (1778) the Meeting for Sufferings appointed the first *London Committee*, consisting of twenty-four Friends—seven a quorum—which held its first sitting on the 18th of Eighth Month, 1788, at which a scheme for the management of the School was prepared, Dr. Fothergill's nephew (John Chorley) being Secretary of the Committee. Dr. Fothergill and his friend D. Barclay were among the number who attended.

With the scheme, a circular, detailing the various steps hitherto taken, was sent down to the country, which says:—

“From this it will appear how much the very important subject of procuring a sober religious education has employed the attention of the Society.”

It adds:—

“That a sum of £2,000 will be needed to furnish and establish the house in addition to the purchase-money of £7,000.”

It is further proposed:—

“That a substantial tenant be sought for, to take the land, and a judicious Friend to superintend the house and garden and purchasing of provisions.

"That a woman Friend be inquired for, to have the charge of the family, the provisions, and do all the duties of a housekeeper.

"That a master, capable of teaching the boys to read, write, and keep accounts, and to teach writing and accounting to the girls, be appointed.*

"That a teacher of the girls, capable of instructing them in reading, needlework, spinning, and housewifery, be provided, and, as the School increases, proper assistants be allowed."

The Yearly Meeting of 1779, of which Dr. Fothergill was Clerk, had little to do but to confirm the action of the previous year.

Writing of this, his niece, Alice Chorley, says :—

"My uncle John was Clerk to the Yearly Meeting this year (1779). Ackworth School is now at last agreed upon, and there is to be a grand meeting to choose deputies, appoint and nominate wise, prudent, and skilful people, for putting the School on a proper foundation, so that it may be permanently lasting, and hand down the names of its institutors to latest posterity."

At this "grand meeting" Dr. Fothergill paid his first visit to Ackworth, and the first General Meeting was held there from the 29th to the 31st of Seventh Month, 1779. By Ann Fothergill's little diary† of these last journeys which she took with her brother, and which gives with

* It will be seen that a woman was not then thought likely to teach accounting and writing.

† A thin little book, with paper cover, about three inches square, kindly placed at my disposal for this Memoir by A. Fothergill, containing itineraries of journeys to Lea Hall, Carr End, Ackworth, &c.

characteristic minuteness a list of all their stopping-places between London and Ackworth, we find that the journey occupied five days, and that at Pontefract, where they lodged at the "Red Lion," they met many Friends, and remained four days at Ackworth. At this General Meeting, the first held at Ackworth, a Report, signed by William Tuke, was drawn up to be presented to the next Meeting for Sufferings, in which it is said that pursuant to the direction of the Yearly Meeting very considerable numbers of Friends appointed by their Quarterly Meetings, and several of the Ackworth Committee from London, met at Ackworth, together with divers Friends from different parts. At this General Meeting, the first Country committees of men and women Friends were appointed.

The Report, after expressing satisfaction that the premises lately purchased were in good condition, and the house well built, spacious, and judiciously contrived, observes, that the great end of establishing the School, is to secure a pious, guarded, useful education to the children of Friends not in affluence; and acknowledges with a degree of thankfulness that their "minds were often covered with a sense of divine goodwill in the course of their deliberations on this important subject."

Nearly three months afterwards the School, as we have said, was opened on the 18th of Tenth Month, 1779, under the care of John Hill,* as Treasurer and Superintendent; and his wife Judith Hill, as mistress of the family; and Hannah Little, as Teacher.

* Luke Howard, who resided at Ackworth, writing in 1836, says, "that he well remembers John Hill, in his venerable grey hairs, and his wife in the midst of the family."—*Vide* "Yorkshireman," p. 309.

As showing Dr. Fothergill's continued care over the details of the new School, I may quote from a letter dated from Lea Hall, in which he says:—

“I have been endeavouring to assist Ackworth as well as I could, and have found a young man here who I hope may answer as a schoolmaster. I wish he could be a fortnight under the hands of a drill-sergeant to teach him only how to walk (but that among ourselves). Schoolmasters often strut sufficiently, but they should learn sometimes to do it with a good grace, for the sake of example; but we must take him as he is.”

About this time we find:—

“1779, *Tenth Month 28th*.—Ann Fothergill writing to Sarah Hird—‘My brother has prevailed on Nancy (Hill) to go to Ackworth to teach the girls there, at least for the present, and likewise prevailed with her father to accompany her thither, and stay a few weeks himself to superintend and assist in establishing good order in the beginning. They set off last evening in the coach with five or six girls under their care, so that if it suits thee to go to Ackworth next Second-day, if they get safe down thou would receive late intelligence of us, and it would be satisfactory to them to see a cordial face they know.’”

We find, also, that he published a shorter edition of Dean Percy's “Key to the New Testament,” for the use of Ackworth School. In the preface to this little book (the last, I believe, of his works,) he says:—

“I think it is a duty we owe to the rising generation among us, of all degrees, not only to accustom them to the frequent reading of the Holy Scriptures, but likewise to inform them, as far as we can, of all those eternal

circumstances and events which tend to explain or confirm the doctrines they contain.

“The Key is worthy to be put into the hands of youth of every rank in life. The higher classes may receive information from it; but as my intention in procuring this extract was principally to accommodate the children at Ackworth, where a plain English education is all that is proposed, such parts of the Key are omitted as seemed less to coincide with such an Institution.—J. F.”

In the spring of the following year the Country Committee (held Fifth Month 1st, 1780), in a report signed by its first Clerk, William Tuke, gives some information as to the state and progress of the Institution up to that period. From this it appears that seventy boys and fifty-three girls had been admitted. They add that the want of such an establishment seems clearly evident, from the ready disposition with which Friends have embraced the privilege of giving to their children the means provided for a pious and guarded education.

A Statement of Accounts is appended, by which it appears that—

£6,380 had been given in donations.

3,050 Donations, subject to annuities.

10 Legacy.

1,596 Bills of Admittance (190 at £8 8s.)

£11,036

Dr. Fothergill himself, and his friend D. Barclay, gave £300 each, and subscribed a further £200 by way of annuity; five others gave £200 each, and seventeen gave

£100 each, and many of whom gave a similar sum subject to an annuity.

The action of the Meeting for Sufferings, which has been detailed, and the warm support given by the Yearly Meeting to the establishment of Ackworth, does not in any way detract from the important part which Dr. Fothergill took in its establishment. That he had been for years working for this object both in the Meeting for Sufferings and in the Yearly Meeting, we have already seen; and it is I think clear, that the estate at Ackworth would not have been purchased, had it not been for his earnest perseverance and determination in overcoming all obstacles.

Nor does it render him less entitled to have his name handed down to the latest posterity as the founder of Ackworth School, that he did not, as has often been stated, purchase it wholly and present it to the Society. And jointly with his name, and entitled to our gratitude and remembrance, we must not omit to mention that of his warm and devoted friend David Barclay* (of London), and in Yorkshire, those of his friends, John Hustler (of Bradford), and William Tuke (of York).

In the summer of 1780 (the last of his life) Dr. Fothergill paid his second, and subsequently a third, visit to Ackworth School. We take the following vivid description of the Doctor's journey from Ackworth to Lea Hall, after the first of these visits, from his sister's diary, and of her own feelings after visiting the School.

"17th Eighth Month, 1780.—We got well to Halifax

* David Barclay was the grandson of Robert Barclay, of Ury, the distinguished author of Barclay's "Apology."

before twelve, ordered dinner early, to go on as far as we could. But so many were apprised of my brother's coming, that he had a number of apothecaries and patients presently, that put him almost out of patience, and detained us until four o'clock, though he left divers unsatisfied. Some urged his staying all night, that he might see more, which was no part of his plan, and then to Littleborough that night; and to Manchester about nine next morning, where my brother was that day employed unceasingly."

She thus refers to Ackworth:—

"As to my thoughts on Ackworth I can say little, but this, that so agreeable, well ordered (so far as I had time to observe) numerous young family impressed my mind so satisfactorily, that it dwells on my thoughts, and some idea of it has attended my mind in dreams almost each night since I left the place. May best wisdom vouchsafe His influence to direct and preserve those who sustain the arduous task of its good government to its latest time."

In the same month Dr. Fothergill writes a very interesting letter to the celebrated Dr. Priestley, in which he says:—

"*Near Middlewich, Cheshire, 24th of Eighth Month, 1780.*—I called at Ackworth on my way hither, and find we have made a pretty prosperous beginning. Above 80 girls and 150 boys are got together in less than ten months' time. The head of the house is made for it, and teachers we are making as fast as we can. The children are already moulded into excellent order, clean and attentive. The beginning is prosperous, the event must be left.

"It is my fervent wish that all the professors of Christianity may be more anxious to live Christian lives than

either in advancing the consequence of a sect, or reflecting on our fellow-servants and our brethren, the sons of the same Father. To establish young minds in Truth, and erase the prejudices that may have been sown, is a great object with me. . . . Reading, writing and arithmetic for the boys, and for the girls the addition of necessary female employments, are there taken care of.

“To give them an early inclination of acting uprightly, *doing to all as they would desire others to do to them, even in the most trivial concerns of life, is a matter I very much wish to have* KNEADED *into all their instruction.* If they can act so as to avoid the reproaches of their own minds in the first place, and then be able to act such a part as to feel an interior approbation, they never will slide far from the paths of rectitude.”

In his published “Letter to a Friend” upon Ackworth School, from which we give the following extract, Dr. Fothergill lays down the broad principles in accordance with which he desired the education at Ackworth should be conducted—an education based upon the most profound conviction of the imperative claims of an enlightened conscience—and which inculcated above all things a reverence for the Almighty and a fear of offending Him.

“But above all, it is hoped that every opportunity will be embraced of cherishing in their tender minds obedience to that principle of light and truth which is given us to profit withal. And however necessary it is for all to be bred up in the fear of offending this pure inward spirit of truth which naturally leavens the mind into a teachable, submissive frame; yet to those whose condition in life makes a just subordination a duty, a temper of this kind

must be an invaluable blessing. Perhaps there is nothing in the common course of public education in the world that so unfits men for that humble attention to the Divine monitor within, that renders them such perfect strangers to the spirit of Christianity, and all its happy effects, as the cultivation of a bold, unfeeling disposition, which, under a notion of promoting manliness and courage, too often sets aside that great defence and ornament of youth, a modest and ingenuous temper; accustoms them to throw off all the restraints of duty and affection, and at length to bid defiance to entreaty, admonition and reproof.

“In this place it is hoped that endeavours will be used to form in the children a temper widely different, equally remote from a culpable fear and servility, and an audaciousness that knows no respect for order or authority.

“There is a circumstance in the bringing up of Friends’ children, which has been, and yet is, of greater importance to them than perhaps is generally apprehended, and I mention it, as in the proposed Institution it will doubtless be particularly regarded. To habituate children from their early infancy, to silence and attention, is of the greatest advantage to them, not only as a preparative to their advancement in a religious life, but as the groundwork of a well-cultivated understanding. We are almost the only professors of Christianity who acknowledge the use of this absolutely necessary introduction to Christian knowledge and Christian practice. To have the active minds of children early put under a kind of restraint, to be accustomed to turn their attention from external objects, and habituated to a degree of abstracted

quiet, is a matter of great consequence and lasting benefit to them. To this they are inured in our assemblies, and to sit in silence with decency and composure. Though it cannot be supposed their young and active minds are always engaged as they ought to be, yet to be thus accustomed to quietness, and initiated to curb and restrain the sallies of their youthful dispositions, is no small point gained towards fixing a habit of patience and recollection, and a regard to decorum which seldom forsakes those who have been properly instructed in this entrance to the school of wisdom during the residue of their days.

“Did the subject of this letter admit of it, it would not be difficult to show from abundant authority, and reason itself, the vast aid afforded to the improvement of the human mind, by early habits of silent attention. The most ancient schools of philosophy taught and practised it, and the Scriptures are so full of precepts on this head which ought to remove every objection to this necessary duty.”

Later on in this year (1780) Dr. Fothergill and his sister retraced their steps from Lea Hall, and paid their third and last visit to Ackworth, attending the Committee held, as now, in the Tenth Month.

Here is his own account of the reason which led him to attend a second time in the year, at no little inconvenience to himself.

Ninth Month 16th, Dr. Fothergill writes :—

“Perhaps we may stay with our relatives at York some part of Sixth-day, and get to Pomfret and Ackworth to the Committee on Second-day following. I have been

labouring closely with my pen every vacant hour since I came hither, not for myself, but on the Yearly Meeting minutes. A week's respite would have been pleasing, and perhaps useful ; but as our friend David Barclay has given up so much of his time, and wishes I could meet the Friends there, I cannot but yield to his desire who has sacrificed so much of his time and labour to this very important undertaking. David Barclay sent me a pretty full account of the affairs at Ackworth, many of which will require very serious attention."

David Barclay had at this time a house at New Miller's Dam, near Wakefield, and, whilst in the neighbourhood, paid frequent visits to the School, in which he took so deep an interest.

I cannot find that there is any record of this visit or Committee from the pen of Dr. Fothergill ; but his nephew, Dr. Hird, of Leeds, who was present, speaks of Dr. Fothergill as breaking the solemn silence of a Committee, and expressing himself as "rejoicing with a degree of trembling, as he saw with heartfelt satisfaction the apparently complete state of the Institution over which he had spent very much of the past two years, and laboured very ardently for the promotion of this great design."

The little diary of his sister from which I have before quoted refers to it, and expands and wells over with a note of thankfulness as they return home together, *for the last time*, and almost as I think with some touch of insight that the beloved and useful life which she prized above all others was not long to be spared to her.

"*At Ackworth, Tenth Month, 1780.*—Next day a large concourse of Friends attended. Good order prevailed, and

wholesome rules were established, and a degree of peace comfort and consolation, was to be felt, as if a blessing hovered over the Institution and was ready to own the upright labourers in its promoting.

“*Third-day Morning.*—We parted with its inhabitants in much love, and to see its prosperity and feel the sweet reward of peace cheered our journey, and gave consolation to this good man and worthy promoter as long as any visible object could, as his upright intention and desire seemed granted and blessed.”

“Home by Doncaster, Bawtry, Tuxford, Newark, Stamford, Stilton, Huntingdon, Royston, Waltham Cross. Came home well in health, and, through favour, with peaceful minds, that evening, Tenth Month 6th, 1780.”

One of the most important objects of Dr. Fothergill's life was now accomplished, and we can only devote a few words to the account of its close. Before doing so, however, the following graphic description of Dr. Fothergill, as he appeared probably at the time of his last visit to York, written by a great-nephew, cannot fail to be of interest:—

Extract from Records of John Fothergill, of York (1793).

“Dr. Fothergill was pious, generous, and benevolent, rather above the middle age; very delicate and slender, of a sanguine temperament; his forehead finely proportioned; his eyes light-coloured, brilliant, acute, and deeply penetrating; his nose rather aquiline; his mouth betokened delicacy of feeling, his whole countenance expressed liability to irritation, great sensibility, clear understanding, and exalted virtue.

“He usually wore a large low three-cornered hat, a white medical wig, with rows of small curls descending one under another from near the crown to his shoulders ; a coat, waistcoat, and breeches of nearly white superfine cloth ; the coat without any collar, large cuffs, and two of the buttons buttoned over his breast ; the waistcoat with long flaps ; the ends of his cravat were buttoned within his waistcoat ; the stockings he wore were silk and the colour of his clothes ; his buckles were small.

“His coach was dark green, with wheels of the same colour ; the horses were tall black ones, with very short dock'd tails after the old manner. His coachman was exceedingly lusty : he weighed at least sixteen stone ; his livery was a plain cocked hat, a white wig, a light drab coat with a velvet collar the same colour, and bright haycock buttons. My great-uncle left him £50 per annum. Dr. Fothergill had a little stiffness in his address, when he walked along the streets he leaned forward a good deal.”

The three years during which were carried on the negotiations ending in the opening of Ackworth School were, as we have seen, years of unremitting exertion. This severe strain told upon his health, and in 1778 he had an attack of the same internal disorder which terminated his life little more than a year after the opening of the School. As showing both the estimation in which Dr. Fothergill was held, and the immense extent of his practice and acquaintance, we find it stated that he had upwards of 600 calls or letters of inquiry after his recovery from the former attack. Writing to his brother Alexander of the excessive strain upon his health about this time he says :—

“I would wish to retire from the excessive labour, if I could get my affairs reasonably settled with a little to support us if I should live to old age. I have lost abundance, and worked hard for many from whom I can expect no return, whatever happens to me; and the growing calamities of the country involve every one in distress and difficulty.”

And again, referring to his illness in 1778, he says:—

“I could wish gradually to retreat from the excessive hurry I have long lived in, and to live a little more to my friends and to myself. I have had a narrow escape; . . . another day might have been my last. Through Divine favour I was preserved easy and resigned, knowing that it had been my wish to live in the fear of the Lord, that I might die in His favour; and so, dear brother, may it be with us all, to the end of our time, be it longer or shorter.”

Two months after his return from his last visit to Ackworth he was again seized with illness, which terminated his useful busy life in about a fortnight.

Very touching are the letters (belonging to the Crosfield family of Liverpool) commencing with the 15th of the Twelfth Month, 1780, three days after the seizure, which David Barclay addressed to Dr. Fothergill's nephew, Dr. Hird, of Leeds, which describe almost daily the sufferings of the patient, and the resignation and fortitude with which he bore them. His death took place on the 26th of Twelfth Month, 1780, at the age of sixty-eight.

The event was regarded as little short of a national calamity, and the papers and periodicals of that day were filled with notices of the departed. The *Noon Gazette* had

two long notices occupying several columns. In the *Gentlemen's Magazine* and *Annual Register*, and other papers, appreciative obituaries appeared. "His great reputation," says the *Annual Register* (for 1781), "is universally established. The exercise of his great abilities was not confined to the practice of medicine and the study of nature, but was unrestrictively employed for the promotion of the general good and happiness of mankind, and as his extensive knowledge, public spirit, and many virtues were not less eminent than his medical skill, he will be deservedly reckoned among the illustrious characters of the present age." "His mind," says Dr. Hird,* "was of that open, candid, enlarged class, which surveys all the families of the earth, and all orders of men, with a liberal and comprehensive view, as the children of one common Parent, and equally under the care of His Providence; and he was instant, at all times, to support what was truly good and virtuous under all forms and denominations whatsoever. He was a man of charity in the true Christian sense, 'thinking no evil.' . . . Yet I should think myself guilty of neglect to the memory of my deceased friend did I not observe that he abhorred the prevalent infidelity of the age, and gloried in the name of Christian.

"His attachment to revealed religion was sincere, arising from rational conviction and mature deliberation. He valued the Scriptures as the great depository of Divine Truth, and was never ashamed of those great fundamental doctrines, salvation through the Mediator Jesus Christ, and sanctification by the influence of His Holy Spirit."

* Dr. Hird's affectionate tribute to the memory of Dr. Fothergill, 1782.

Dr. Franklin, writing from Paris, says of him:—"I doubt whether there has ever existed a man more worthy than Fothergill of universal esteem and veneration."

In the *Nouvelle Biographie Générale*, of Paris, it is said—"He was a philanthropist in the highest sense of the term, and he merits the most honourable position among the benefactors of mankind;" and adds that the following simple inscription was placed on his tomb:—"Here lies Dr. Fothergill, who dispensed 200,000 guineas for the relief of the distressed (*Malheureux*)."

That such a sum is much larger than that which he so freely gave away, may well be admitted, but what he did give away, and what was the total of the fees he refused to take, will never be known. That these did amount to very many thousands cannot be doubted; and if, as is stated by contemporary writers, he had an income for some years of £7,000 or £8,000 per annum, it was not unnatural to suppose (as was then also stated) that the fortune he left behind him was, for that period, "immense"—£80,000. Such, however, was not the case; and from private papers and accounts I infer that his property did not much exceed one-fourth of that sum, or £25,000 at the outside. His unselfish, generous, open-handed liberality, forbade that he should save; and of him it may truly be said that he realised the words of the Christian Poet of our own time—

"He only who forgets to hoard
Has learned to live."

In addition to the gifts previously made to Ackworth he bequeathed an annuity of £50 to the Institution, to insure which his executors purchased £1,666 13s. 4d. in Consols for the sum of £1,000, a figure at which it has stood for a

century in the accounts of the Institution, until last year the bequest was brought nearer to its present value of £1,500. To his faithful coachman Dr. Fothergill also gave an annuity of £50, and smaller sums to his other servants; bequeathing the bulk of his property to his sister Ann for her life, and afterwards to be divided among his nephews and nieces. Some idea may be gained of the extent of his library when it is stated that it took eight days to sell by auction. His almost unequalled collections of shells, corallines, insects, reptiles, &c., &c., were sold to Dr. Hunter for £1,500, a sum much below their value, and so fixed by Dr. Fothergill. His collection of paintings on vellum of rare plants and other objects of natural history were purchased for the Empress of Russia for £2,300; and his collection of engravings of English Portraits (probably the best then known) realised £90.

A letter from his devoted sister, written nearly two years after her brother's death (First Month 29th, 1782) vividly recalls the final scene in the sick-room in Harpur Street, and is written with as keen a sense of her loss as if penned at the time:—

“That my feelings have been exquisite thou wilt believe, and that deep solemn silence was most befitting as well as most desirable when it could be obtained.

“The full persuasion that Everlasting Rest is the happy exchange of my dearest friend and brother consoles me, and as I think I loved him more than my own life, or any temporal enjoyment or gratification for myself, so at times I can rejoice in his release from trials. Many hidden difficulties and oppressions he underwent and were increasing to his feeling mind in a world unworthy

of him. In this view I not only acquiesce but rejoice, as I believe he has fought the good fight, and is enjoying the Crown of Righteousness. My mind has been at times as peaceful as if I partook with him in this life, though when I return to a view of my loss, it is as recent as on the day when it happened. Some little account thou wilt desire to have. I cannot yet proceed to give much detail; the remembrance of the distressing scene was too affecting, and though I was enabled to bear it with apparent calmness, and to retain constant recollection and attention, what he suffered will never be erased from my memory whilst my faculties last. He was in extreme bodily pain, which he bore with patience, fortitude and resignation, to the admiration of all about him. He said little of his thoughts respecting himself on any affairs till a few days before his release. As I was sitting by him he said *tenderly*, 'Sister, be content; do not hold me. I have been low. I have been doubtful whether it would be well with me or not, but now I am satisfied beyond a doubt.' He repeated it—'beyond a doubt that I shall be everlastingly happy; therefore, be content, and may thou be blessed in time and in eternity'—in this sweet sensible disposition, grateful to everyone for what had been done for him, and desiring blessings upon us with his last intelligible voice; and I doubt not is singing praise to his Deliverer, is my consolation now" (to think).

Thus died the distinguished Yorkshireman John Fothergill, who in life had so thoroughly exemplified his own saying, *that the great business of man as a member of society is to be as useful to it as possible, in whatsoever department he may be stationed.*

“To prevent” (says his biographer) “the inconveniences that were feared and might result from the crowd that purposed to assemble to pay the last offices of esteem to his memory had he been interred in London, it was judged advisable to carry his remains into the country ; which, on the 5th of January, 1781, were deposited in the burial ground of Winchmore Hill, about seven miles from town ; nevertheless upwards of seventy coaches and chaises filled with friends attended upon this melancholy occasion. The tender remembrance of friendship yet lives in every breast ; we mourn *without form* ; we see and feel the void his fall has left, and which only time can mitigate, and resignation to the dispensation of that Power which orders all things with unerring wisdom and goodness beyond our comprehension.”

Ann Fothergill, acting on her brother's directions, gave up the house in Harpur Street, and retired to a smaller house, No. 68, Great Russell Street. Here she lived out her quiet life, dying in 1802, at the age of eighty-four, the last of her generation. And now, side by side, in the peaceful suburban burial-ground of Winchmore Hill, two small headstones may be seen, which record the names of the devoted loving brother and sister, linked together in the last outward bond, as he so often had united their names when writing to various members of the family as “J. and A. Fothergill.”

A few feet only divide these graves from another, the resting place of their friend David Barclay, close to which is another whereon is inscribed, “David Barclay of Cheap-side, the Son of the Apologist.”

The reading of James Hack Tuke's paper gave great pleasure to the meeting, and it was listened to throughout with unabated interest.

The CHAIRMAN said : The meeting will be interested to know that there are present three collateral descendants of Dr. Fothergill, lineal descendants of Alexander Fothergill, one of his brothers. One of these, Samuel Fothergill, an old Ackworth scholar, will now address you.

SAMUEL FOTHERGILL then said : You will not, I am sure, be surprised when I tell you that I feel mine a very difficult position. With only ten minutes before me, and placed in such a position in relation to the distinguished individual of whom we have just heard so much of a complimentary character, I feel that every word I have to say ought to tell. I do not want to speak for nothing. I speak to you as an Ackworth scholar—as one who has enjoyed some of the advantages of the Institution—as one who was brought up a member of the Society of Friends, and who owes a great deal of what is valuable in life to the fact that he belonged to that Society ; and as one of the nearest representatives of the family of Dr. Fothergill—a great-great nephew. I was an Ackworth scholar from 1829 to 1832. Ackworth was a very different place then from what it is now. Some reference has been made to the progress which it has made since I was here as a scholar, and I am quite delighted to see it. It is a pleasing fact that from the first the Society of Friends took so great an interest in education, feeling its importance so extremely ; and the more we reflect upon this the more we shall see how right that is which we are doing to-day. Wherever men exist, there also exists education in some sense of the term. We

are all educated—every savage is educated—and there is a great deal of education which is entirely wrong ; but it is a grand thing for those who have a right education. And there is no right education, it appears to me, except that which has the basis which the Society of Friends has always regarded as the necessary and right one—that is, the Christian basis. (Hear, hear.) Education, in its best sense, is emphatically and distinctly a Christian work. Our Saviour left His high estate and came down to this earth and suffered for the sake of erring humanity ; and this is the spirit that animates true education. Self-culture is a great thing—we cannot cultivate our minds too highly—but there is such a thing as selfish self-culture, and a great deal of education results in little better than refined barbarism. True education lifts the moral and excites and informs and develops the spiritual parts of our nature—that by which we lay hold upon God and the unseen. It is this which gives its grand character to education as a force in the world ; it was this spirit that animated Dr. Fothergill in his endeavours to do good. The best way we can honour God is to do all the good we can to our fellow-men. Thus it was that the Society of Friends in its early days attached so much importance to education, and I am glad to know that the disposition is not less prevalent in the Society now than it was then. The sums of money spent on this School, and on similar institutions in other parts of the country, testify, I think, to that fact. It is a grand feature of the Society that it has made provision for the education of all its members as it has done. But it has not stopped there, for while it has done so much for its own members, it has done much also for those around, who had no claim upon

it except that of our common humanity. Carr End is dear to my memory, and I cannot tell you how I felt when I heard it mentioned just now. It is so full to me of memories of my early life. When I was a little boy we used to go to Carr End every year to spend a few weeks with our grandfather and grandmother. It was regarded as a great privilege. We used to go in the old-fashioned post-chaise. It was a long way from Darlington, but it was a grand thing to be at that romantic place at the end of the journey. I could tell you a great deal about the Doctor which the writer of the paper has been obliged to pass over for lack of time:—of his investigations in science, of his having plants brought to him from foreign countries, and of his endeavours to enrich and benefit his own country by collections of this description—but I will not attempt to go into those matters. I should prefer to occupy the remainder of my time in just putting what I think is the lesson of the evening, and it is this—that we all of us here, including these dear children who are now enjoying the advantage of an education in this Institution, have solemn obligations to meet. There is not a person in this room who does not owe a deep and overwhelming debt of gratitude to the past. Our forefathers rotted in dark dungeons, or went to the stake, in order to obtain for us those privileges and advantages which we now enjoy in this Christian civilized country; and are we to sit still, with folded hands, and enjoy those privileges and advantages that were won for us by the hard labours and terrible sufferings of those who have gone before and we ourselves do nothing for the future? (No, no.) We none of us live to ourselves, or die to ourselves. As we owe a debt of gratitude to the past, so are

we under obligation to labour for the future. If we are fully alive to our position, we shall feel how much we owe and what a privilege it is to work for humanity. As we lay ourselves out to make others happy, to glorify the great God who made us and the Saviour who died for us, exactly in that proportion we shall be happy ourselves. May we all, learning from the life of the illustrious man which has just been sketched out, be determined more than ever to live for God and for humanity. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN said: Among the distinguished men who were educated at Ackworth, was the Right Hon. James Wilson, who died Finance Minister of British India. We have present his elder brother, Walter, who will now address you.

WALTER WILSON said: My friends, after the luminous paper which we have heard read, truly descriptive of the philanthropic career of the founder of this Institution, anything I can say regarding my experience as a scholar at Ackworth will fall very tame indeed. True it is that I did not receive my first education here, for I did not come until I was nearly twelve years of age. In 1808 (8th of the Fifth Month) my sister Catherine and I started in a post-chaise from Hawick. It took us four days to reach our destination; now we can go from home to Leeds in four hours and a half,—such is the change of times. When I was conducted the first evening up to my bed-chamber, my feelings were very strange indeed. Introduced into rather a large bed-room, with a number of boys all around me who were perfectly strange, sitting up to see the new boy, I felt my forlorn position. I did not shut my eyes, and, on the whole, spent a very uncomfortable night. Next

morning I was surrounded by a number of boys, all wondering who this boy should be from Scotland. The lodge-keeper came to my deliverance, and glad I was of such a friend at the time. However, I was not very long in making myself known, and in proceeding with my education. I was drafted into Joseph Sams' class, the writing master. In the first place I was sent to a side form to learn the tables. Among the first was numeration; that was soon got over, and I took my place at the desk. I proceeded from one step to another, and as time went on I found myself very near the top of the School. The teacher of reading was William Singleton. I must give him credit for being a very excellent teacher of reading. He corrected my pronunciation of the vowels by marking their proper sound over the top of each letter; and, altogether, I think he produced as good readers as I have been able to hear anywhere in my life. Another class was that of Master Joseph, as he was called—a very nice man; and the education he gave I considered at the time very good indeed. I remained here for two years and a quarter, and then I went to another school where I remained a year; so that my education had finished when I was about fifteen and a half years old. I was always very much pleased with Ackworth School, and was very happy and very comfortable, with one or two exceptions, which I should have been very glad to escape, and which I did escape sometimes. There was one point, the dinners on Second and Sixth-day. (Laughter.) Not being a lover of fat meat, I really could not manage it. However, I was so fortunate as to find a boy on the opposite side of the table who relieved me of all difficulties. (Laughter.) As to the other food, well, Fourth and Seventh-days' dinners

were not very good ; but all the rest was excellent. I enjoyed good health, and, as I have already said, was very happy and very comfortable the whole time I was here. There was another point, which was to my mind very unsatisfactory, and I must mention it (I am glad that this has been entirely cured), and that was the old bath. It was a dreadful place to take a poor boy to. Many a boy trembled as he went, and was heartily glad when it was over. With these exceptions, the School was very well conducted.

In my time Robert Whitaker, genial and kind-hearted, was the Superintendent. He ever looked upon the boys as his own children, and he sometimes had the kindness to join us when I was walking with my sister in the centre path, and, playfully clapping my sister on the shoulder, would exclaim, "Well, Kate, how do?" It was very pleasant thus to be treated by that genial, kind-hearted friend. I liked all the teachers very much. George Broxall was a very excellent teacher of grammar. In class he sometimes appeared rather drowsy, but no sooner did a boy make a mistake than he was at him. (Laughter.) John Donbavand, son of Master Joseph, followed him—not, in my estimation, quite so well up to the mark. Samuel Evens was the youngest apprentice when I went to Ackworth, and I think William Hayward was the youngest when I left. I left school with the governess, Isabella Harris, who was going to Thirsk to visit her relations. I accompanied her as far as that place, and went on shortly afterwards. And thus, friends, I finished my education. But when is education finished? We are only beginning education when we leave school. (Hear, hear.) We have then to look all around us, make ourselves acquainted with good books,

which will enlighten our understandings, and form our judgments. We have to look around, and observe the attitude of society. These points are of great importance in the acquiring of a good education. I also admire the teaching of French and German now introduced, either of which I consider more useful than Latin.

I find that a number of boys are leaving school at this time, and to them I should like to say a few words. Have you thought of what you are going to do? Are you going home to your parents to follow their business, or what other prospects and plans have you? It is of great importance that you should learn early what you are going to do, and come to a decision upon the point. The next thing, after you have settled what you are going to be engaged in, is to get hold of books, which, as I have just said, will enlighten your understanding and form your judgment. I should recommend you first of all to read Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations," one of the best books to form the understanding on the subject of political economy, which helps us to a true apprehension of the duties of man to society, the duties which he has to perform to the world while filling his station in life. And stick firm to your principles; be determined to stick to the truth. Conscientiously perform your duties, whatever those duties may be. As surely as you thus act you will form an item of society that will be respectable and useful. The formation of character then has to be continued after you leave school, and you must be industrious in preparing yourselves for the performance of those duties which will devolve upon you on your entering life.

My brother James's name has been mentioned. He was a scholar at Ackworth from 1816 to 1819. I think I came here to take him home. When he got home he had just two ideas in his head—whether to qualify himself as a teacher of youth, or to be a farmer—and these ideas were laid before my father. The result was that he went to Essex to initiate himself in the training for a teacher. He remained there six months, but it did not answer; he got tired of it and came home. My brother William, who was afterwards drowned on the coast of Dunbar, had begun business as a hatter, and James went into that business with him. Shortly afterwards they went to London together to continue their business. James, who had a taste for literary pursuits, began to write leading articles for the *Morning Chronicle*; and especially on one occasion, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer wished to make up a deficit in the revenue by putting on additional taxes on the Customs and Excise, my brother, seeing that that would simply be raising the price of the article affected, and lessening the consumption, wrote strongly against it. He also started the *Economist*, and from taking an active part in public matters, chiefly with regard to Finance and Free Trade, he at last entered Parliament for Westbury. After being in Parliament for a number of years, he was considered, by both sides of the House, as the fittest person to go to India for the purpose of reforming the finances of that country. He felt it his duty to comply. He thought he could work as hard in Calcutta as in London; but he found that was fatal. For some time he waited anxiously for the report of a committee who were sent up the country to inquire into the produce of cotton, and while thus wait-

ing he was seized with dysentery, and in two or three days his life was ended.

The next to address the meeting was our friend Henry E. Clark, of whom we do not use terms of undue eulogy, when we speak of him as the devoted missionary to Madagascar, to which country he and his wife were returning in the course of a fortnight.

H. E. CLARK said: It can only be, dear friends, that in a short fortnight to-day, as the sun sets, we shall probably be sailing down the Thames to take our place among Christian workers in foreign lands; it can only be for that reason that I am permitted to say a few words this night. I may be asked, "What can you say about Madagascar which shall have any reference to the Centenary?" Some of you, however, may not be aware of the great influence which Ackworth has had upon the Christian work which is going on in that large island. We have here my dear friend Joseph S. Sewell, who was an Ackworth scholar. He was the pioneer of the Society of Friends in Madagascar, and no other missionary has done more to help forward Christian education in that island than my dear friend Joseph Sewell. On one occasion the Bishop of the Mauritius invited me to breakfast, and in the course of a conversation on the subject of establishing a bishopric in Madagascar, the Bishop said, "You don't need a bishop; you have one already—Joseph Sewell." The grammar published in the Malagasy language was written by Joseph Sewell; and when the Malagasy see that grammar their respect for their forefathers is very much

increased, and they say, "What clever men our forefathers were to make a language like that!" Then William Johnson, who was a scholar and teacher in this School, is now conveying his wife to the coast of Madagascar, on account of her ill-health, in order to send her to England. Samuel Clemes, though not an Ackworth scholar, is given credit for running away with an Ackworth apprentice as his wife—a very irregular proceeding indeed (laughter)—and the Ackworth loss has been a great gain to Madagascar. I won't refer to myself, an Ackworth scholar of four years, save to say that I am the son of one second to none in his efforts to carry out, so far as he could, the designs of the Founder of this School, of whom we have heard so much to-night. I will speak of my wife—in future years many in Madagascar will rise up to call her blessed! There is another lady going out with us, and she is an Ackworth scholar and teacher. And, if I am not mistaken, others, in obedience to "marching orders," will also go there from this School. Thus you will see that this Centenary has, after all, something to do with Madagascar, and that there is a rainbow, a golden arch, connecting this village and School of Ackworth with the far-distant city of Antananarivo, four thousand five hundred feet above the level of the sea. It is profitable to us to look back upon the past, to think of the many privileges which were ours, the many advantages which we might have enjoyed while we were occupants of these premises. But, without entirely dwelling upon the past, let us look forward with fresh hope that, wherever God's providence may place us, there we shall be enabled, God helping us, to display this grand banner of Ackworth to the world; and

then, when our places on earth shall know us no more, hand it on unsullied to our children. (Applause.)

JOSEPH SIMPSON, a member of the Centenary Committee, was the last speaker this evening. He said :—I took down a few notes awhile ago, from which to speak : but my heart is so full at this great meeting that I cannot look at them, and you must please excuse me, dear friends, if I get over the traces now and then, and speak in not quite conventional language. The prominent feeling in my mind to-night is this, "What should I have been but for Ackworth School?" For, among the many blessings, during a life which has been full of blessings, I count my education here to have been one of the greatest.

It has been truly said to-night that our respect and gratitude are due towards the good man of whom we have now heard so much. Whilst heartily agreeing with this, I submit that towards our old teachers, too, that gratitude is eminently due. This I know, anyhow, that I shall never cease to feel deeply grateful to my dear old friend and master, Thomas Puplett—(great cheering)—and to Joseph Stickney Sewell. I have, I fear, often grieved them, but I have never been ungrateful towards them, and I hope and believe that this feeling will never diminish. And, dear friends, if we feel thus, it is only right that, at such a time as this, we should speak out. And then there are our old Superintendents and "Committee-friends!" I am glad to remember dear old Robert Whitaker, William Dent (a Nathaniel "in whom there was no guile"), and Samuel Tuke, who got me my first holiday here. To these, amongst others, I feel deeply

indebted ; and I trust that when the bi-centenary of this School comes to be celebrated, old Ackworth scholars will with similar truth and heartiness, declare their loyalty and gratitude.

But if our praise is to be of any value it must be discriminating. It was not *all* pleasure or profit at Ackworth in my time, nor is it so now, I suppose. There were drawbacks then, as, doubtless, there are now. And amongst these, may I, without giving offence, mention one? I should like to see the boys and girls of Ackworth School a little more *polite* : having amongst them a little more of that consideration for the feelings and convenience of others, which is, I take it, the basis of all true politeness. They are not so faulty in this respect, as we were ; but I am sure we lose much ourselves, and give much less pleasure to others, by our shortcomings in this respect.

And now, let us try to draw at least one practical lesson from this meeting. I have received, as every boy and girl who has passed through this School has received, great benefit from my life at Ackworth. Let us hand on these benefits to those who come after us. It is related of a great English painter of our own time—B. R. Haydon—that, when the New Houses of Parliament were being built, he petitioned to be allowed to paint one of the large frescoes there. He did this from love for his Art, and not for mere money payment. “And if,” said he, in his petition, “your honourable House cannot accord to me this privilege, I beg that I may be entrusted with one of the smaller frescoes.” “But should even this honour be denied me,” he went on to say, “I ask only that I may be allowed to *grind the colours* for some one else to paint

with." And so, my friends, let it be with us. Few of us, it may be, are fitted to paint the large, or even the smaller pictures in this life, but let us at least be willing and wishful to grind the colours for some one else to paint with. This is all I ask for.

The meeting now concluded. It was felt to have been worthy of the occasion.

The allusions to the letter of John Bright, M.P., were received by the assembly with marked interest and expressed applause. His name recalled very eminent services to his country and to humanity, extending over a very lengthened period. It is valued and dear to multitudes in both hemispheres, particularly so to his co-religionists, and more especially to those having the common ground with him of Ackworth scholarship and religious training in childhood. The domestic affliction alluded to by the Chairman gave a more touching interest to John Bright's associations with Ackworth.

The paper of James Hack Tuke had much more than local interest, carrying the minds and imaginations of his audience back to the days a century ago, and incidentally depicting Quaker life and feeling, whilst dwelling lovingly on the talent, philanthropy, and Christian excellence of a very uncommon man.

The work of founding Ackworth School was undertaken by men who, having put their hands to the plough, looked not back; who sowed good seed, to be reaped by the generations following, and whose lives and services deserve to be borne in grateful remembrance by their descendants.

CENTENARY PROCEEDINGS OF SIXTH-DAY.

The weather of Fifth-day had been unfavourable, and it was with foreboding that we thought of the morrow.

The morning of Sixth-day opened gloomily. There had been rain in the night, and doubts prevailed. Happily these misgivings proved needless. The breeze was a good "friend," clearing away the clouds, and letting in the sunshine; so that the weather was at its brightest through the day, as sunny as if it formed a part of the arrangement for Ackworth's festival.

The devotional meeting on Sixth-day morning, at seven o'clock, was a much larger one than that on Fifth-day; and it was held in the Reading-room. It was a solemn prayerful time, and was an appropriate opening of the day's proceedings.

Dr. DOUGAN CLARK, Richmond, Indiana, opened the meeting by reading the 72nd Psalm. He spoke of David, as the man of war, subduing God's enemies; and, in this Psalm, inaugurating his son Solomon's reign of peace, with all the heathen conquered around him. David's prayers are here ended, and his desires fulfilled. In connection with this, Dr. Clark alluded to the difficulties of the first conductors of Ackworth School, and that now we might hope for a time of settlement and peace in the second century of its existence. He then specially drew attention to the Christian life, which at first is often one of conflict, until, through the power of Christ, in whom alone the Christian can trust, the enemies of our souls are subdued, and Christ reigns supreme.

Very early after breakfast Friends began to take their seats in the marquee. And now the question arose, What will be its acoustic qualities? If filled, as evidently it will be, can speakers with weak voices make themselves heard? It was very cheering to the Committee to have the ready reply in the affirmative to the question, "Can Friends at the end of the tent hear?" whilst J. S. Rowntree was reading his paper. But we anticipate. A platform had been erected at the end of the tent farthest from the girls' wing, and there, closely packed, were the members of the Centenary Committee and the intended speakers. Neither age nor position was a passport to this coveted spot, and some very reverend people had to mingle with the crowd below. Luckless they who had failed to be in time. It was the "early bird" which caught the worm. As the morning trains brought their heavy supplement, sitting space and standing space were alike fully occupied, and some of us were fain to crowd around the purlieus of the tent, unloose its folds, and make ourselves peep-holes and become eaves-droppers. Happy we that nothing dropped from the eaves on us! These contrivances for spectatorship availed much, however. Even the outsiders saw and heard—"Better than those inside," said some, maliciously. "Cooler, too," although the breeze, amongst its other good services, invaded the heated recesses of the tent. There was a somewhat subdued—we might call it religious—light, within the tabernacle, unusual, but not unpleasant.

Immediately under the platform sat the dear and happy-looking School children, some of them to remember and recount for fifty, sixty, seventy years, the events of the day.

May they be happy ones for them ! Altogether it was a pretty and impressive sight, not to be forgotten by any of us who saw it all from the platform. We have already said that there was computed to be about 1,600 persons present.

The Chairman of the meeting this morning was JAMES HENRY BARBER, of Sheffield, who took his place at ten o'clock, at the invitation of William Coor Parker, on behalf of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN said: Dear Friends, it was explained last night that although our joyous Centenary Meeting is not, strictly speaking, a devotional meeting, yet it was believed it would be more in accordance with the feelings of all Friends that we should open our meetings by reading a few verses of Scripture. I desire this morning to follow the precedent of last night in this respect.

The Chairman then read a few verses from the forty-eighth chapter of Genesis (being the account of Jacob blessing the sons of Joseph); and after a short devotional pause he said :

Dear Friends and Fellow-Scholars,—Our dear and revered Chairman of last night said that it was with unfeigned diffidence that he took the chair on that occasion ; but what must, and what ought, to be my feelings this morning on being asked to preside over this large gathering ? And yet I do not intend to take up your precious time by any personal apologies, but to do my best in order to discharge the duty which the Centenary Committee have assigned to me. (Applause.) One is almost overwhelmed when one thinks of the vastness of our constituency, of the number of persons and the extent of space which we have, as it

were, to think of as we speak in this tent this morning. One thinks of three generations, one of which has passed away, or, perhaps, not wholly passed away, another generation which is rapidly passing away, and the third generation constitutes the vigorous and active men and women of the present day. Then, again, one's thoughts turn to the fourth generation, our hope and our joy, the children who are now occupying the places at Ackworth that we once occupied. Perhaps there are to some of us special considerations of interest in regard to this Centenary. I am one of those—for I recollect the Jubilee at Ackworth School fifty years ago. ("Hear, hear," and applause), I was a scholar at Ackworth School at that time, and although I don't intend to dwell upon that interesting occasion, which will no doubt be spoken to by others, I thought I should just like to allude to it as a special object of interest to me. Not only is it a fact that for one hundred years there has been an unbroken stream of Ackworth scholars—at the rate of nearly one hundred annually—flowing out, but when one considers to what distant quarters, and to how many regions, the reverberations of this tent will come, we may indeed feel this to be an important meeting. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) The Australian sheep-farmer in his secluded and solitary home will hear with interest of our gathering, and his heart will warm at the recollection of his Ackworth education and of his schoolmates. The colonist of New Zealand will hear of our meeting, and the settler in South Africa. Even in Natal, amidst all the horrors of warfare, and the apprehensions which war brings with it, there will be the remembrance of that lesson which has long been taught at Ackworth School, "Love your enemies ;

do good to them that hate you;" and also that further lesson so eminently taught at Ackworth, "If thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink." (Applause.) There will be many a one scattered over the length and breadth of North America who will hear of our meeting to-day. The Canadian settler, as he makes his maple sugar, will be thinking of friends now at Ackworth, and of what we are doing here to-day. Some one, it may be, who is passing up the Rhine, or through Switzerland, will hear of us this morning, and an individual or two seeking health on the shores of the Mediterranean will think of us. There are, also, dear friends in Madagascar, and under the burning sun of India, who will not forget us. Indeed, all over the world, wherever the restless Anglo-Saxon race has wandered, we shall find Ackworth scholars; for probably there is not a nook, a corner, or a village where they have gone, where the news of this Centenary gathering will not be hailed with joy, and where hearts will not be gladdened by the news. ("Hear, hear," and applause.)

Well now, dear friends, on such an occasion as the present, one is tempted a little to speak of some of those incidents of the Ackworth life in the old days, but they must be very few indeed. My recollection of fifty years ago brings first and foremost as the two central figures then at Ackworth our dear and venerable Superintendent at that time, Robert Whitaker and his excellent wife Hannah Whitaker. (Applause.) I can well remember the motherly kindness and attention of Hannah Whitaker, and if I wanted the type of an excellent friend and an honest man

"Close buttoned to the chin,
Broad cloth without, and a warm heart within;"

stern in the execution of his duty, and still having a loving and genial heart, commend me to Robert Whitaker. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) I knew him in the year 1828, and the fifty years which have since elapsed have not diminished in any degree the impression of his character, or of the kindness of his disposition. (Applause.) There is one little incident which occurs to me which I should like to speak of in connection with my school days at Ackworth. Fifty years ago we were a rebellious race—(laughter)—and I well recollect the time when an epidemic of rebellion passed through the School. Before supper-time it broke out; through supper-time it continued; after supper it raged in the bedrooms; next morning it broke out again at breakfast time; and I know there are those in this tent this morning who can remember Robert Whitaker coming into the boys' dining-room and standing there with a saddened aspect, and saying to us, "Boys, if ever this happens again, I believe I shall take my leave of Ackworth School" ("Hear, hear," and applause). Rebellion vanished at that word, because we all loved Robert Whitaker far too much seriously to grieve his heart. (Hear, hear.) That incident I still remember well, because it showed how Robert Whitaker reigned in the hearts of the Ackworth boys at the time he was the Superintendent.

I am now inclined to ask our elder friends to shut their ears, because I am going to tell the children a story, and I hope you will not think I am lowering the dignity of the meeting by doing so. Well, I had a kind and loving aunt, and when she came to Ackworth to see me on one occasion she thought she would give me a treat; and, knowing my

love of cockles, she brought me in a basket a whole boiling of them. (Laughter.) As she thought it would be rather difficult to get the cockles boiled at the Inn, she took them to a cottage in the village, and there the cockles were boiled, and I made a capital feast of them. (Laughter.) When I had eaten as many as I could, there were cockles to spare, and I filled my pockets with them and went into the School. A circumstance then occurred for which I had made no provision. The cockle-shells were not waterproof, the gravy ran out of them and over my boots upon the floor as I walked into the School, and I well remember having to mop up the cockle gravy. (Laughter.) There was one boy in the School at that time with a warm heart—and he had also a warm temper—whom I invited to share with me something good I had got. I sought him out, and, going up to him, with the usual request, “Open thy mouth and shut thy eyes,” I popped a cockle into his mouth. (Laughter.) Instead of receiving it with gratitude, he flew at me with great ferocity, and I had to defend myself as well as I could; and it was not until I had received many blows that I made him understand that I had given him a cockle, and not a snail. (Laughter.) The children must have their bit of fun, therefore I hope our elder friends will forgive me for relating the story I have just told them. (Hear, hear.)

There is another incident I cannot lose sight of in connection with this School, and it is associated with Joseph John Gurney. (Applause.) There are boys and girls here who will recollect how we gathered round Joseph John Gurney like a swarm of bees, and how, on his visits to the School, he walked about the garden like a prince—as

he was—surrounded by his loyal subjects. (Applause.)
He taught us that beautiful hymn—

“ Rock of Ages cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee ; ”

and we used to repeat it altogether, and had such a love for him, none the less that he begged for us a holiday and gave each of us a shilling to spend. (“Hear, hear,” and applause.)

I must now bring my remarks to a close, because time is pressing. Last night, at our meeting, one could not help thinking of the various epochs which have distinguished our Institution here. Four years after this School was founded, the first Friends' petition was sent to Parliament praying for the suppression of the slave-trade; and the men who founded this School were those who set on foot and carried on the crusade against negro slavery, which never ceased until every slave in the West Indies, and subsequently in the United States, was made free. (Applause.) It is to the efforts of men like these, and also of such women as Elizabeth Fry, that we are indebted in no inconsiderable degree for the beneficent alteration that has taken place in criminal legislation, and also for the efforts for the promotion of peace and goodwill among the people of the earth. (Applause.) Dear friends, is there nothing for us—the men of the present day—to accomplish? There has come a time when capital and labour are arrayed against each other; when our working-classes appear, often under great suffering, to assume a tone of defiance and hostility; when intemperance is ravaging them; and when Atheism of a different type from that of Voltaire is desolating them. Such being the case may it

not be our privilege and our endeavour to bring together men of every class, especially in our First-day schools, and teach them that brotherhood of men which John Woolman taught, and that the love of God brings with it the love of all God's animated creation? (Applause.)

ALFRED SIMPSON of Manchester, one of the Secretaries, then read the following Report :—

TO THE GENERAL MEETING.

The Centenary Committee report that they have endeavoured to carry out the instructions of the last General Meeting.

The sum of £3,335 12s. od. has been paid or promised by 1,171 contributors, in amounts varying from 1s. to £100, and £2,659 19s. 6d. has been received.

The arrangements for the celebration of the Centenary have been completed; but as they are well known to Friends they need not be recapitulated.

Substantial oak bookcases, with chairs and tables, have been placed in the Committee-room, a new carpet provided, and the room painted and coloured. Bookcases already on the premises have been renovated, and placed in the boys' and girls' wings. Some progress has been made with the supply of these libraries with books, in the proper selection of which great care is being exercised.

After paying the cost of the Celebration, the incidental expenses, the cost of bookcases, fittings, and books, and after setting aside £1,000 to the support and extension of the libraries, there will remain a very inadequate sum to be appropriated to the more thorough teaching of Practical

and Natural Science ; and the Committee hope that the funds at their disposal may be increased by further donations, so as to enable them more effectually to promote an object of such great importance to the future welfare of the Institution.

The General Meeting will understand that the work of the Committee is not yet completed.

For the Committee,

WM. COOR PARKER, }
ALFRED SIMPSON, } *Secretaries.*

Sixth Month 23rd, 1879.

JOHN STEPHENSON ROWNTREE was now called on to read his paper entitled "A Sketch of the History of Ackworth School." It was as follows :

ACKWORTH SCHOOL—1779-1879.

A great school is often both the monument of a good man and the memorial of a great want. Eton perpetuates the memory of its royal founder's peaceful piety, in an age of turbulence and bloodshed. Dean Colet founded St. Paul's, to spread the knowledge of the recovered learning, in the days of Erasmus and of Sir Thomas More. John Lyon, a yeoman of Harrow, and Lawrence Sheriff, a grocer from Rugby, wishing to do something that might prevent the return of the old superstition, that was ever reasserting itself in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, endowed the schools which have made Harrow and Rugby famous.

In like manner Ackworth School owes its existence to the enlightened energy of Dr. John Fothergill, and to the sore educational needs of the Society of Friends in Great Britain a hundred years ago.

The fourth generation who bore the name of Friends, as distinctive of their faith, was passing from the scene in 1779. Amongst the first and second generations of Friends were many able schoolmasters, some of whom had enjoyed a collegiate education. These had mostly died before the eighteenth century was far advanced, and thenceforward the Society of Friends suffered severely from a want of

schools and of teachers. Between 1700 and 1740, London Yearly Meeting pressed on its members the duty of greater attention to the education of youth no less than twenty-seven times. Minutes and Epistles were not necessarily more productive of results in the eighteenth century than they are in the nineteenth; but their existence clearly marks the prevalence of an educational famine. Of the causes of that famine, and of the first steps taken to remove it, I cannot stop to speak; are they not written in "Five papers on the past proceedings and experience of the Society of Friends in connection with education," by Samuel Tuke?

When the reign of George II. was drawing towards its close, a stone building was slowly rising in the Yorkshire village of Ackworth, designed to be a home for London foundlings. Its promoters expended £13,000 upon it. They expended also much zeal and pains, in caring for their helpless charge after it was gathered within this spacious building. But the results were disheartening, and in 1773 the Institution was closed. Through the chain of events already detailed in James Hack Tuke's sketch of Dr. Fothergill's life, the vacant premises passed into the possession of the trustees of the Society of Friends a few years later. George III. had lived through a third of his long reign, the Earl of Chatham was soon to be laid in Westminster Abbey, the melancholy war between Great Britain and her thirteen revolted colonies was dragging its slow length along, when the foxes that had found a kennel in the deserted Foundling Hospital were disturbed by the advent of other tenants.

John and Judith Hill were the first heads of the new

household. John Hill bore the titles of Treasurer and Superintendent, his wife that of Mistress of the family. For the care and teaching of 314 children they had the help of five schoolmasters, three mistresses and eighteen other servants and officers. All the accounts which have come down to us of the founding of Ackworth School agree in testifying to the wide-spread interest excited amongst Friends by the enterprise, and the pecuniary liberality with which it was supported. Nor are the views of the founders obscure as to the class who were to be benefited by the School, or the nature of the discipline that was to be exercised over the scholars. These were to be the children of Friends in Great Britain "not in affluence." The boys were to be carefully taught in reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic, and "labour being intermixed with learning, the ends of both," says Dr. Fothergill, were to be promoted, "a sound mind in a healthy body." The girls were to be instructed in knitting, spinning, useful needlework, and domestic occupations, "suitable to their sex and station." The principles of religion professed by Friends were to be diligently inculcated, by example perhaps more than by precept; and great care was to be taken to preserve the children from bad habits and immoral conduct. Contact with the external world was to be reduced to a minimum, and thus "a guarded and religious education" was to be promoted. It is impossible to read Dr. Fothergill's "Letter to a Friend," written in 1779, or Sarah Grubb's account of the School a few years later, without seeing that the founders of Ackworth School and the founders of monastic institutions a thousand years earlier had some points in common.

A General Meeting was held at the School three months before the admission of children. The opening ceremony—if ceremony of any sort there was—occurred on October 18th, 1779, by the arrival from Poole, in Dorsetshire, of Barton and Ann Gates, who have almost acquired historic fame from having headed the long procession of nine thousand five hundred children who have entered Ackworth School. It was but slowly the School filled. About fifty children had gathered by the end of 1779. Amongst these Lancashire was not represented. Yorkshire had sent less than a dozen. The majority were from distant parts. The earliest notices of the School are very favourable. Sir Rowland Winn, of Nostell Priory, is said to have been affected to tears when he saw the healthy, happy faces at dinner, and recurred to the unhappy experience of the foundlings who before occupied the building. Dr. Fothergill says he twice visited the School in 1780, and writes in the highest terms of the progress of the children in their studies, as well as of their behaviour.

Of the state of the School about seven years after its foundation, Sarah Grubb has left us a picture, that portrays, at any rate, one of its aspects, and is specially interesting to us because it refers to a time earlier than can now be remembered by any living Ackworth scholar. Sarah Grubb was the daughter of William Tuke, of York, and the nurse of John Woolman in his last illness. She was a helper in Esther Tuke's Girls' School at York, took a leading part in the founding of Waterford School, and is said to have combined "the manners of a duchess with the piety of a saint." Her letter descriptive of Ackworth, addressed to a friend in America, from Foston—afterwards the home

of Sydney Smith—was probably written not long before her death in 1790. For the 180 boys there were, she says, four or five masters, who taught in four schools, the masters keeping much to the distinct branches of learning for which they are best qualified,—reading, writing, arithmetic,—and the children pass in classes from school to school, excepting the little ones. There were “some apprentices,” and ten or twelve of “the eldest and most solid boys” were monitors. These seem to have discharged important functions at meal times, or at least in the collecting before them. When the first bell had rung, ten minutes before a meal, we are told how the masters stand in front of their own divisions, whilst the monitors “survey the boys behind and before, taking care that their buckles are in order, their hair combed, and if any be dirty to send them to wash.” “Here,” the narrative proceeds, “the masters have a frequent opportunity of making useful observations, giving general directions, administering counsel, and selecting out offenders for the table of disgrace, which is no otherwise distinguished than by being detached from the rest, and having no cloth upon it.” Let us interpret the narrative to note that there must then have been table-cloths before 1790, though in 1814 we shall read of “the clothless board.” How long the table of disgrace lasted, history does not say. It was in existence in Robert Whitaker’s time, for we have heard how he once entered the dining-room, and finding two monitors sitting at this table, he lifted up his arms and his voice, exclaiming, “Fallen! Fallen!” “When all appetites appear satisfied,” continues Sarah Grubb, “and a meal is ended, silence again takes place, after which, with an inti-

mation of quietude and sedateness, they are beckoned to depart." The same order is observed amongst the girls, under their four mistresses, with "salaries from £12 to £25." We must not pause to speak of the duties of the spinning mistress, nor of the means for compassing those most desirable ends—the preservation of the mistresses from a too-oppressive load of anxiety, and "cherishing in them a necessary recollection of mind, enabling them more sensibly to partake of a measure of divine strength, by which alone they can govern with right authority and tenderness." Sarah Grubb describes the engagements of First-days, and tells how the two cooks got the victuals ready the day before—cold meat and fruit pies in summer, and "boiled plum puddings in winter," only needing one person to stay at home and keep the coppers boiling; and how in the evening the whole family are collected, when "they quietly settle down in silence for a little while, then one of the masters reads a chapter, and about six boys and as many girls read six or eight verses each, after which they pause again till it is judged a suitable time for the children to withdraw, which they do, not in couples as on other occasions, but singly, going immediately to bed, and at such a distance from each other as to admit of no conversation by the way, the teachers passing with them in certain divisions preserve the quietude without interruption." But we must not linger longer on Sarah Grubb's picture. She tells so much of the recollectedness of the teachers, of the quietude and sedateness of the boys, of the order and solidity of the servants at meals, of the children's clothing so neatly folded every night, scarce one article to be found out of its place, that it is a little difficult

to realise she is writing near to a time when discipline had become so relaxed that one of the boys had assumed the title and exercised some of the prerogatives of king. William Howitt tells how this aspirant for royalty had manifested his prowess by climbing higher than any competitor up the leaden spout in the corner of the pediment, and thereon inscribing his initials, which, he says, writing in 1847, "remain unto this day." This anarchical condition of the boys' side was in the sunset of John Hill's administration. He was advanced in life when he went to Ackworth, and his powers had waned before he was succeeded by John Hipsley in 1791. John Hipsley did not spare the rod—even upon the king's person—and a sterner administration was introduced than seems to have prevailed in the first years of the School.

Though Dr. Fothergill was by birth a North-country man, the home of his manhood was in London, and our sketch would be incomplete did we not note how large a part of the money, as well as of the zeal, that launched Ackworth School, were contributed by Friends in the south of England. I find that of the first subscription of £7,000, which paid for the building and eighty-four acres of land, five-sixths (£5,800) were given by donors living south of Leicester; and for many years London and Middlesex contributed more than double the amount of any other Quarterly Meeting to the annual subscription. It was but natural that those who found so large a part of the funds should wish to have a corresponding share in the management of the School. Hence the establishment of a London as well as of a Country Committee, each of twenty-eight members. The functions of each committee were

fixed by rule—neither might incur expenditure exceeding £20 without the sanction of the other—and with the General Meeting rested the questionable privilege of deciding between the two committees when their judgments differed. This was not a promising constitution for an executive body; and it was not long before the dual government evolved those symptoms of friction—smoke and heat. The General Meeting's authority over the two committees was not a dead letter, for there is a record of a sitting from seven to eleven in the evening, hearing an appeal against the Country Committee for refusing to admit a boy on the score of lameness. It is told how the London Committee was once alarmed at the expense proposed by their country friends in making certain structural alterations in stone, and sent down an architect to prepare a cheaper plan in wood. Arrived amongst the stone quarries of Yorkshire, he shortly returned to the Metropolis with tidings that wood would cost more than stone. After the superintendence of Dr. Binns, the difficulties diminished. Gradually, as was natural, the real power increasingly centred in the Country Committee administering affairs upon the spot. Its relations with Friends in London became most cordial, and the existence of the dual government was prolonged some years, at the wish of North-country Friends, who feared lest its abolition should lessen the national character of the Institution. An amusing correspondence between the two committees occurred about 1836. The Country Committee decreed the abolition of beer as the children's beverage at dinner. The London Committee proposed as an amendment that "the beer be made better." Teetotalism won

the day, and the brew-house was transformed into a water-tank! At last, in 1869, the London Committee was dissolved as a separate body, some of its members forming a section of the united committee, now raised to thirty-six persons—irrespective of the women's committee of ten persons.

However, our narrative is yet seventy years behind 1869, and we have introduced the story of the two committees here, because their differences caused not a little perplexity to John Hipsley, and conduced, with other causes, to his retirement in 1795. The General Meeting of that year must have been a lively time. Amongst the visitors were Priscilla H. Gurney, her companion Anna Clark and Sarah Lynes. The boys' reading was thought not up to the mark. One speaker, himself a teacher, thought the "*rising cadence defective.*" So much exercised was the General Meeting that it set aside a committee to examine the teachers, who had to read before it. They passed the ordeal successfully, though the air with which one of them threw down his book indicated that such a testing of the teachers' powers was deemed by them rather *infra dignitatem*. Another interesting proof of the care taken in the teaching of reading at a somewhat later date, was the sending of one of the mistresses to York to read before Lindley Murray—from whose judgment there was then no appeal. His report was so flattering that he suggested it should not be shown to the subject of it, lest it should conduce to too much exaltation.

John Hipsley was succeeded by Dr. Jonathan Binns, of Liverpool, who renounced his medical practice in order, under a sense of duty, to assume the superintendence of

Ackworth School. Under his rule, the differences already hinted at between the two committees, in which Dr. Binns himself became involved, interfered with the prosperity of the Institution. Dr. Binns' medical skill, and his devotion in times of illness are still on record. He edited the excellent Ackworth Vocabulary, which has passed through so many editions. The Ackworth Table Book, Scripture Text Book, and Reading Book, have all been useful and creditable contributions to the school literature of England. In 1804, Robert Whitaker, who had been secretary to Dr. Binns, was appointed the first salaried Superintendent, and retained the office for nearly thirty years. The offices of Superintendent and Treasurer, hitherto united, were now separated. Wilson Birkbeck, Sparkes Moline, and Samuel Gurney—father and son—are the four Friends who have discharged the duties of Treasurer. The prevailing opinion that the first superintendents received no pecuniary remuneration is not quite correct. They had no regular salaries, but the minutes of the committee show that occasional honoraria were bestowed. We have heard how the late John Hipsley, the son of the Superintendent, served the Institution as book-keeper without a regular salary. When he left, in the autumn of 1796, the committee marked their appreciation of his services by presenting him with an aged horse, whereon he rode to York and there sold it for £12.

This financial expedient invites a few words upon Ackworth finance. The terms for board, clothing, and education, fixed in 1779, were £8 8s. per annum. It illustrates the value of money a century ago, and the prevailing ideas as to the resources of Friends "not in affluence," to find

Yorkshire Quarterly Meeting pushing on the formation of its School Fund, so as to reimburse parents one-half of this eight guineas. And, indeed, Joseph Brown, of Lothersdale—whose memory is embalmed by his fellow-prisoner, James Montgomery, in the lines “Spirit leave thy house of clay”—told Dr. Fothergill it was a contradiction in terms to say the School was for “children not in affluence” and yet to charge £8 8s. per annum, for clothing, feeding, and educating them. The terms remained unaltered till 1799, when they were raised to £10 10s., were advanced to £12 12s. in 1801; reduced to £10 10s. in 1807, and to £10 in 1823. They remained at this figure for a quarter of a century, till in 1848 the system of graduated payments was introduced, varying according to the ability of the parent. The rates then adopted were £10, £15, and £20. Successive changes, since that year of European revolution, have brought the rates to what they are now £15, £20, £26, £32, and £40. The average payment received per child previous to the change of 1848 was of course £10; the introduction of the graduated rates soon raised the average to £15 15s., and it has slowly crept up to £26. The annual income of the Institution, in the first few years of its existence averaged about £5,000, children’s payments contributing rather more than half this sum. It has grown to £9,904, in the year that ended with the last day of 1878, the children paying £7,281. During the past century the Society of Friends in Great Britain has continually been resolving itself into a Committee of Ways and Means for Ackworth School. The discussions therein have, we believe, afforded enjoyment to amateur financiers, and have not been unfruitful in replenishing the Ackworth exchequer.

A popular opinion prevails that this exchequer has usually been in the same condition as the national exchequer under the Beaconsfield ministry, yet the property of the School has grown, and amounted at the end of each decade to the following sums :—

	£		£
1788 ...	8,417	1838 ...	28,505
1798 ...	14,099	1848 ...	29,220
1808 ...	24,245	1858 ...	37,012
1818 ...	27,526	1868 ...	37,740
1828 ...	29,481	1878 ...	40,610

Recurring again to the state of Ackworth School early in this century, we have, on the whole, a pleasing description from the pen of William Howitt, who was a pupil between 1802 and 1806. - He fully corroborates Sarah Grubb's statements of the complete social equality that existed amongst the children, though some came from very poor homes, and others from homes of many more outward comforts. Sarah Grubb highly commends this blending of different classes, and so does William Howitt. After speaking of the children's isolation from outside evil influences, he says—"Within, the children are free from the distinctions of wealth and rank, which torment the world and excite many keen heart burnings in most public schools. Here not a sense of them exists. The utmost equality, the most cordial harmony, prevail. One child is distinguished from another only by the difference of person, of talents, of disposition, and proficiency in learning." "Happy estate!" he exclaims, "admirable foundation for a noble and erect carriage; for establishing in the mind a habit of valuing men, not by wealth and artificial rank,

but by the everlasting distinction of virtue and talent." But for the inexorable march of time, it would be pleasant to linger over "The Boy's Country Book," and to revive the picture it gives us of Ackworth life in the days of the long French War. Especially graphic is the notice of the walks, and the distribution of hats and caps for the 180 lads from the great wicker-baskets wherein they were kept stored, except when in use for these rambles. He tells how, in one of these walks, a boy with bow and arrow shot a dead goose, and how the Superintendent paid the aggrieved farmer 5s., the price of a live one; and how the odours which permeated the culinary department when the said bird was cooked confirmed the veracity of the boy who the day before had in vain affirmed its real condition. William Howitt tells how he and Wiffen, the translator of Tasso, told tales by turns in the bedrooms, of the sliding in winter, of gardens in summer excelling any other gardens he ever knew, and of the much-loved privilege, then, as before and after, of walking on the flags—"a charmed promenade"—where brothers met sisters, and cousins of uncertain degrees of relationship, confirmed and renewed their friendships.

In 1813 wheat and "meslin" cost Ackworth School £1,713, more than three times the cost of flour last year. The harvest of 1812 was bad and the flour bad in consequence. We have heard scholars of this period tell how their pieces of bread would stretch out till they were almost a yard in length. At an earlier period, 1795, John Hipsley mentions wheat, just before harvest, as 14s. per bushel, and the fears that prevailed lest there should not be corn enough in the country at any price. The book-keeper went to Pontefract

market in those days, and such was the competition, "that he had to place his hand on the farmer's sack, in order to secure wheat, the moment the bell rang for market to begin."

"The good old times
Were hard old times
All the country over."

We must not pass away from the early history of Ackworth without referring to some of the visitations of illness. It was very early discovered that, isolated from the world as the School was, it was impossible to prevent the introduction of epidemic disease. The second Annual Report "states that forty children had been ill of small-pox in the natural way, and twenty-five were inoculated," adding, a little grimly, that all these are to pay one guinea each towards the expenses occasioned, and if, in future, children die of the small-pox, or any other complaint, two guineas are to be returned for each whole unexpired quarter that has been paid for, "less one guinea for funeral expenses." In 1784, five boys and two girls died of scarlet fever. In 1792, fifty children had the small-pox—all recovered. In 1803, 200 persons in the family were affected by scarlet fever—seven children died, and the General Meeting that year was omitted. In 1824, seventy scholars were ill of typhus fever—two died; also a teacher, John Donbavand. In 1828, the Institution was visited with an awful epidemic of fever; nearly 200 were ill—Henry Brady, the much-beloved grammar master, Mary Dumbleton, the nurse, and three girls died. In the winter of 1831-2 nearly the same number were attacked by fever—three fatal cases occurred. A pupil who was at School between 1821 and 1824 writes, "The state of health must, on the whole, have been below

what it ought to have been. Bronchocele, or full neck, was so common, that every spring the doctor examined us all round, feeling our necks. When there was incipient glandular swelling, he prescribed an extra weekly plunge in a cold bath—a highly popular remedy. Chilblains were a scourge of many children in winter; in some cases ‘crippling them for successive weeks.’” Robert Whitaker, writing during the attack of fever in 1824, refers to the medical treatment of that time in these terms:—“Most of the late attacks have been slight scarlatina with sore throat, which is not a formidable disease. If the children complain quite in the outset, a smart dose of calomel, with a cup of solution of Epsom salts, followed by a febrifuge and a little nursing, are generally the means of subduing the complaint in a few days.” A correspondent remarks, that much the same treatment was adopted in 1842. In the hundred years of the School’s history, the whole number of children who have died at the School is ninety-three. Arranged in decennial periods the deaths group themselves thus—14, 11, 8, 7, 17, 10, 9, 6, 6, 5. It is said that about forty of the foundling children died within three months, during the prevalence of one epidemic.

Though the conditions of good health are better understood now than by our forefathers, the liability to the recurrence of epidemic disease must always be one of the dangers of a great household like that of Ackworth. It is, we believe, well established that the health of the family has been better during the last twenty-five than in the previous seventy-five years. This may be attributed to structural improvements presently to be spoken of, to a more abundant supply of water, a larger allowance of air in the

bed-rooms, improved food, and warm bathing. Vacations must be debited with having increased the liability to the introduction of epidemic disease.

The Society of Friends is now so assiduous in pressing on its members the duty and privilege of frequent Scripture reading, and the practice is so general, that it is a little difficult to realise that for more than thirty years the Scriptures were not publicly read in Ackworth School, except on First-day evenings. On those occasions "Kendall's Abstract" was the volume read from in 1812, says a scholar of that year. In 1813 Robert Whitaker introduced the plan of reading a chapter from the New Testament every morning after breakfast. Three years later, Joseph John Gurney attended the General Meeting, and in examining the children as to their knowledge of Scripture, found it was very small. In a letter subsequently addressed to the Superintendent, Joseph John Gurney says:—"I am of opinion that the minds of the boys are not properly cultivated on the subject of religion. They are remarkably sheltered from evil, but do not appear to me to be positively led to good." At his suggestion, a Bible, formerly given to each child on leaving School, was furnished to each on entering. The scholars cordially accepted his proposals to undertake to study the Scriptures, preparatory to an examination by himself at the close of the year. The Superintendent, Robert Whitaker, and the teachers, warmly seconded his views. Each child received a copy of the Bible. "Well thumbed were these copies at the year's end," says Joseph John Gurney, in his autobiography. "The children took their Bibles to bed with them, read them by the early morning light, pored over them at leisure hours

during the day, and especially on First-days. The teachers rendered them their best assistance; knowledge of the subject increased, and with it good; and when I visited them at the close of twelve months, the whole aspect of affairs was changed." The good work brought about by Joseph John Gurney was continued under his auspices for several years, and then gradually came into the regular School curriculum. It may safely be said, that for the last sixty years, the care taken in instructing the children in Scripture truth has been a leading feature in Ackworth School.

I have already referred to three notices of Ackworth School in its early days which have come down to us. Two others now claim our notice. A pamphlet in rhyme—I cannot say poetry—printed at Nottingham in 1814, describes a visit to Ackworth by Mentor and Amander. Nearly a third of these three hundred verses of doggerel are occupied with a discussion of punishments, in which the use of the rod is deprecated. The gist of the arguments is in the lines—

" Reject the tantalising scourge,
And pause and look within.

* * * *

For if with Solomon I whip,
Why not with Moses stone ? " *

Passing over another ten years, I come to a fifth notice of Ackworth, in a letter from our friend Thomas Harvey,

* There is not much in this narrative that is specially illustrative. A verse or two descriptive of a dinner at Ackworth, when Napoleon was a prisoner at Elba, may serve as a specimen of the whole.

" Bak'd pudding crowned the clothless board,
The dinner of Fifth-day,
Each trencher bore an ample piece,
From side to side it lay.

who was a scholar in 1821-24. He says:—"I look back with deep respect on the Superintendent, Robert Whitaker, and nearly all the Teachers. The School was, I believe, considered nearly perfect. He would have been a bold man who had hinted that there was much that was defective. I can believe it was, as a school, in advance of other middle-class schools, both in education and training; but in looking back, memory rests on arrangements which, in some respects were Spartan. The clothing had been considerably reformed, the old leathern breeches were abolished—one pair survived, which boys who inked their clothes were compelled to wear a day or two, as a punishment; still the clothes were so peculiar in cut and appearance that I suppose few on leaving School were able to wear them out. The dietary was decidedly unsatisfactory. We had roast or baked meat to dinner on two days in the week; on two other days 'lob-scouse,' a poor thin Irish stew, with a little meat in it; on another day, suet pudding with treacle sauce; on another, batter pudding — 'clatty vengeance,'—very un-

Soon as the pudding and the sauce
To every one were dealt,
Stillness immediately ensu'd,
Stillness which might be felt.

Dinner concluded, once again,
The usual signal given,
Stillness invites the grateful mind
To render praise to heaven.

The boys are next dismissed to walk
In order round the green,
And the two friends withdraw, to take
A dinner at the Inn."

popular. On First-days, apple or other fruit pie, or a kind of cold, sweet rice pudding. The dinners were served on wooden trenchers, with very small beer—the smaller the better—in tin mugs. The redeeming feature of the diet was the excellence of the hot milk porridge at breakfast, and the cold milk with bread at supper. I sometimes think I have never tasted anything so good since those breakfasts.

“As regards teaching, there were few subjects taught; Reading, Grammar, Writing, Geography, English History, and Arithmetic comprising nearly the whole. The system was departmental; there were two writing schools, the front and the back, to one of which each boy belonged, and in which he spent half his school time. The other half of the day he was either in the Reading, or in the Grammar School. The teaching was careful and thorough. The Scriptures were carefully taught. Several of the masters and apprentices—I remember especially Henry Brady—a most superior man among the former—and John Newby among the latter—took a good deal of pains to give the boys a taste for improved pursuits in their leisure time. As to the moral tone of the School, I feel at a loss to speak. That it was lower than it has become, I do not doubt; that it was higher than in many other schools of the period, I think probable. In so large a school, boys group themselves into circles of intimacy, and have only a slight knowledge of other circles. If a boy drew towards an orderly set, and became one of them, he would know little of the doings of a set at the other extreme, and would partake little of its tone of thought. That there was much needing reform I do not doubt—the adult masters were

too few to exercise the oversight that was desirable, and there were some traditional notions of discipline that were radically bad, though held with the best of motives. One of these was, that any evil that cropped up—without reference to its greater or less degree of blame-worthiness—was best repressed by severity. The extreme punishment was flogging. This was administered with what seemed to us a somewhat awful surrounding of mystery. After the boys had gone to bed, the culprit was brought before the Masters' Meeting, tried, convicted, and punished. I dare say it was not very severe, but the stigma was most injurious. Some of the offences liable to this degrading punishment were in themselves trivial; such as carving names anywhere on wood or stone, taking food out of the dining-room, &c. There were also "light and airy cells" for solitary confinement. I remember a high-spirited boy being so broken down by one or two days solitude, aided no doubt by the goadings of his own conscience, that he was made willing to read a most humble confession of his fault—probably not one of moral delinquency—before all the boys, teachers, and Superintendent at the evening reading. It was well that there should be brokenness of spirit, but the willingness should have been accepted for the performance, and the boy spared this abject submission. I have no doubt at the time this was deemed a triumph of discipline and a proof of good and wise government. Notwithstanding all that needed to be reformed, I look back with respect and love upon the Superintendent and teachers. They were able, wise, and good men; they were probably in advance of their time; they were thoroughly in earnest in the desire to give the boys the

best educational training in their power, and to make Ackworth fulfil the intention of its founders."

It may be convenient here to say a little more on the subject of Punishments. Thomas Pumphrey makes a memorandum within a week of his entering on the superintendence of the School, of a "conversation with an officer on the nature and object of punishment, its proper infliction,—the impropriety of its having anything retaliative in it,—prevention of offences and the reformation of the offender, its legitimate objects,—the demoralising effect 'of a multiplication of rules, by their frequent infraction and necessary frequent punishment." He adds, "Examined the records of caning, a very humiliating volume,—it carries its own refutation with it, as to the good effects of such kinds of punishment,—235 inflictions in a year, of which half the number have been upon eight boys, varying from three to twenty-four times in the year: my mind is greatly pained by the perusal." A gentleman who was at Ackworth in the year of its jubilee—1829—sends me a narrative of his detention for some hours in the "light and airy rooms," and then, "faint and frightened," being brought before the Masters' Meeting and caned there and then, having been tried and condemned unheard. He expresses his surprise that there was not a more copious crop of stubborn and rebellious juveniles. In an important document of 1846, the gradual relaxation of severe discipline is named, and corporal punishment, though not formally abolished, is stated to be "practically disused." It was reserved for an Ackworth scholar—the late John Ford—after practical acquaintance, both as pupil and teacher, with the harsher systems of discipline, luminously to explain the principles,

and to illustrate the methods by which influence and authority may be maintained without recourse to corporal inflictions—unless in very rare cases—and yet without relaxing that habit of obedience which still is “the bond of rule.”

In the year 1833, Hannah Whitaker, whose official connection with the Institution dated from 1787, died of cholera, whilst from home on a journey. Her husband, Robert Whitaker, retired from his long term of superintendence the next year. Just before the close of 1834, Thomas and Rachel Pumphrey assumed the duties of heads of the Ackworth household.

The establishment of the Friends' Educational Society in 1837, influenced the history of Ackworth School in various ways. The Society was educational in a double sense. Its theme was education, its objects being practical rather than theoretical. The men who took part in its proceedings were themselves educated by the discussions that took place, and by the facts elicited by their inquiries. The boarding-school system begun by Friends at Ackworth in 1779, had been expanded by the successive establishment of other schools, till, as was said at the Educational Meeting of 1842, from 1,000 to 1,200 children connected with Friends were in its different boarding-schools. To my late father, Joseph Rowntree, the question continually recurred, What were the results of this education? He has told how constantly this thought presented itself when the Ackworth Committee met with the boys, who were leaving school, for the last interview. No one knew better than he that there are mental and spiritual results that would elude any attempt of the statistician to take cognizance of. But it

would be possible—could a sufficient number of persons be interested in the inquiry—to follow out the history of a group of Ackworth scholars, to see how many were living after a given interval, how many had gone to this or that trade, how many had failed in business, how many had emigrated, how many had married, how many were still Friends, for what causes those no longer Friends had left the Society. After much thought, Joseph Rowntree determined to enter on this investigation, and in the autumn of 1843 asked correspondents in all parts of England and Scotland to supply these particulars, as respects the 1,869 boys, who had left Ackworth in the forty years ending with the last day of 1839. It would have been contrary to all precedent if some Friends had not thought this inquiry useless or mischievous ; but it was carried through, and—as the result of much patience, a great correspondence, and some expenditure of money—a mass of information was collected of the highest value. No report of the investigation was published. It was difficult to do so in a form not open to objection. Some of the facts disclosed were calculated to occasion pain and discouragement, and it may, I believe, be said that the general result of the inquiry was considered to be disappointing. The startling facts in respect to disownments for marriage contrary to the rules of Friends were made much use of in the subsequent discussion of the Society's marriage regulations. But what more particularly concerns us now is the result of these returns upon Ackworth School. Those most closely connected with its management were convinced that the time was come for improving the material appliances of the School—making the schoolrooms more spacious, and

therefore more healthy, and making more decided efforts to add to the power of the teaching force, by increasing the proportion of teachers to scholars, and by obtaining better trained teachers. In 1846-47 an appeal was widely circulated, stating the wish of the Committee to compass these ends, by raising the boys' wing, so increasing the airiness of the Schoolrooms, adding to their number by taking the Meeting-house for that purpose, and erecting a new one in its place. Along with these material improvements, the number of boys' classes and teachers was increased. A liberal response came to this appeal—£6,238—and these great changes were carried out. When completed, Friends were so much pleased with them that, after the General Meeting of 1849, a loud demand arose that the girls' side should also be improved. Large alterations were effected in the summer of 1851, the whole cost being defrayed by special subscription. But whilst donations defrayed these large investments in stone and mortar, added income was wanted for the annual outgoings of the School, now increased by the additional teachers and their larger remuneration. To meet this need the plan of graduated charges was successfully introduced in 1848. In 1852 the study of French was introduced—more than sixty of the children beginning to learn it. Latin had been taught to the elder boys since 1824, now another class of boys began to learn it. It will be seen that the period from 1846 to 1852 was one of the most momentous in the history of Ackworth School. It was one of rapid change and of great improvement. Thomas Pumphrey was just the man to be at the head of affairs at such a time. His fertility in resource, and his active and enterprising spirit, were of the greatest

value in carrying out alterations, both material and educational.

During the same period another event had occurred, that told how

“ The old order changeth.”

For sixty-seven years Ackworth School had pursued its operations with unbroken continuity, when, in the summer of 1847, the great household broke up for the first vacation. “ Who,” says a spectator, “ but those that witnessed the animated scene of the departure, can picture its thrilling and overpowering character? Situated several miles from the nearest railway, it was needful to call into requisition all the vehicles at disposal; and five large tilted waggons, fitted up for the occasion, each containing thirty or forty light-hearted children, made more than a trip a-piece to one or other of the neighbouring stations. The morning was favourable; many visitors assembled to witness the novelty; the children in their best, each bearing his own modicum of luggage, took their place in the waggons, nothing loath to be tightly stowed; and before eight o'clock the first party of a hundred started amidst loud and reiterated cheers, which were heartily re-echoed by the joyous freight of the ponderous, heavily-laden vehicles. Ere another hour had elapsed a second hundred were thus disposed of, and by one o'clock the busy scene of the morning concluded, by clearing out the last juvenile occupant of yesterday's crowded mansion.”

The vacation of 1847 was experimental, but its results were so satisfactory that it became a permanent institution. For nearly half-a-century no vacations at all were allowed to the Ackworth scholars. Children were four, five, and

even seven years, without seeing their homes. A story is told of a poor man in Cornwall, who sent one child after another to Ackworth,—the journey there was too great for him to undertake, and the children on leaving school taking situations in the North of England, their home-leaving for school was a home-leaving for life. Nor must it be forgotten that in the days of no vacations, telegraphs were unknown, post-cards unthought of, and the postage of letters so dear that they were very few in number. The few letters that were written at the School for the home circle were always seen by a teacher or superintendent before leaving the Institution, so that there was hardly any intimate communication kept up between parent and child, through the post. Parents came to the Inn and so saw their children—but it was only some who had this opportunity. The founders of Ackworth had seen the evils of children growing up ill taught in their homes. In seeking to remedy this they, to some extent, overlooked the unique power of the family bond, as a divine institution, and the impossibility of parental duties being performed by proxy. They wanted to train the children for heaven; but the child's heart wants to be

“ True to the kindred points of heaven and home.”

We can hardly realise the difficulties there were in the way of locomotion eighty years ago, which, of course, partly explain the absence of vacations. Some of the present company will remember how, when set down by the coach at Went Bridge, they were brought on to Ackworth in a cart littered with straw and drawn by the ox, which also carted coals and turned the washing mill. Soon after the introduction of railways, permissive vacations

were allowed to children who had been two years at school, and when the general vacation just spoken of followed, it may safely be said that the School came into closer harmony with the divine plan of human teaching and discipline.

Meanwhile a stone building had been rising on the brow of a hill that had formed part of the School estate. It looked lovingly down on the elder building, and was designed as a training college for young men teachers, under the bequest of Benjamin Flounders, of Yarm. The Flounders Institute was opened in the summer of 1848, under the superintendence of Isaac Brown. It has most influentially helped the work of the School during the thirty years that have elapsed since its opening.

In 1858 the girls' wing was remodelled and improved. The next year the swimming bath was provided by the liberality of former scholars. The old bath claims a few words of notice, for which I am again indebted to Thomas Harvey:—

“The old bath, fed by a very cold chalybeate spring, was about half-a-mile from the School. Those whose turn it was, rose early and walked before early class and breakfast to bathe—the new and little boys had to jump in and be caught, after their plunge, by bigger boys, who handed them on to the shallower part of the bath to creep out. If a boy shrank from leaping into what seemed to his little mind a yawning gulf, he was bodily thrown in by one of the younger teachers. It was a frightful process, yet we soon got used to the bath, and, after a while, thoroughly enjoyed it. We had no towels, but put our shirts on our wet skins and got dry by exercise. Towels were introduced

soon afterwards. That this bathing refreshed and invigorated the stronger boys, I have no doubt, but none, also, that it injured others. I remember a little boy being seized with a shivering fit after his bath, taken back to the nursery and his bed, and in a short time dying. At his funeral, his elder brother—then a very young acknowledged minister—was present, also J. J. Gurney. Under the pathetic ministry of these friends the school was a Bochim (the boy was a general favourite); but I do not recollect that any connection was suspected to exist between the shock to the nervous system of a delicate child at the bath, and his illness and death."

Previous to 1860, examinations into the attainments of the children had been made by the Committee, and at the General Meetings, by the visitors present. In this year, an examination was conducted by William Davis, B.A., a professional examiner. Inspections by professional examiners have subsequently taken place in 1872, 1874, and 1879.

In 1862 Thomas Pumphrey retired from the superintendence of the School. His death occurred in the same year. George Satterthwaite entered on the vacant office and held it for eleven years. In 1870 the rules of the Institution were altered to allow of the admission of children outside the line of membership with Friends. The School had not been full, and it was believed these extra scholars would improve the finances without interfering with the conduct of the Institution as a Friends' School.

I have already referred to five accounts of Ackworth School, relating to different epochs in its history. Two others should be shortly noticed. In 1853 George F.

Linney published a history of the School—a small volume of fifty-five pages. It was written by our late friend Thomas Pumphrey, and is the fullest account of the Institution that has hitherto been published. I have often employed it in the preparation of this sketch. In 1866 Ackworth School was visited by J. G. Fitch, M.A., on behalf of the Schools' Inquiry Commission. His notice of the School is printed in the ninth volume of the report of that Commission, presented to Parliament in 1868. "The intention of the founders has," says Mr. Fitch, "been admirably carried out. . . . The course of instruction is faithfully described in the regulations as, 'a sound, useful education, rather than one of a showy or superficial character.' In the girls' school I was especially struck with the beauty and finish of the reading, and of all the written exercises. In both Schools geography, history, English grammar, and experimental science are well and intelligently taught. Instruction is also given in Latin and French. Greek is not attempted. The whole curriculum contemplates the removal of the pupils at about fifteen. I cannot sufficiently express my admiration of the order, seriousness, and repose of this great Institution, nor my sense of the advantage which the pupils enjoy, in the watchful supervision of the Society to which they belong."

On the retirement of George and Rachel Satterthwaite from the superintendence, in 1873, Josiah and Mary H. Evans succeeded as heads of the Ackworth household. Robert Whitaker was a successful teacher before coming to Ackworth, but, with this exception, Josiah Evans, the seventh Superintendent, was the first who had enjoyed a

professional training as a Schoolmaster. His administration, extending over four years, will be remembered as the period of the first winter vacation (1876), also as that in which the teachers and Superintendent first dined with the children; conversation being henceforward allowed, at that important event in each day's proceedings. The boys' washing-cellar was done away with, and the new warm baths and lavatories erected. In the educational department of the School, Latin and French, Geometry and Algebra were now for the first time taught in all classes except the lowest, and the whole School was re-arranged, on the principle of placing every child under an adult teacher, each of whom was assisted by one or more junior helpers.

The present Superintendent, Frederick Andrews, with his wife, entered on their duties after the vacation of 1877. All interested in the School will desire for our friends a long and useful reign.

And now, though I have brought down my narrative from 1779 to 1879, how much that is pertinent to the subject in hand remains unsaid? And that which remains unsaid—personal reminiscences; anecdotes of teachers, officers, and scholars; changes in manners, customs, dress, and regulations—is that which gives life and sharpness to the dry outlines of history. But I leave my story in its imperfect state with the less regret, because this slight sketch is but the precursor of the Centenary History of Ackworth School, which we await with so much interest from the pen of Henry Thompson.

In writing the foregoing pages I have been often reminded of a well-known sentence in one of the speeches of the late Prime Minister, where he spoke of "The social

forces which move on in their might and majesty, and which the tumult of our debates cannot for one moment impede." We have seen how a century ago, the "Quaker colony" was founded at Ackworth, life there being regulated on a model far removed from that approved by the world at large. It is said, I apprehend with truth, that such was the isolation of the children, that events like the Battle of Trafalgar, the burning of Moscow, Napoleon's overthrow at Waterloo, and even the recurrence of Christmas Day, remained unknown to them long after their occurrence. Yet Ackworth could not be unmoved by the pulsations of life, the movements of the great social forces in the wide world around it. The discovery of vaccination, and other changes in medicine, the rise of teetotalism, the invention of lighting by gas, of lucifer matches, the introduction of railways, cheap postage, telegraphs, the repeal of the Corn Laws, the general softening of manners, have all made their distinct impress on the character of Ackworth life.

I should like to have referred to officers, both living and dead, to whom the School owes much. Notable gardeners, beneficent bakers, governesses like Hannah Richardson, housekeepers like Sarah Madocks, nurses like Mary Williamson, bookkeepers like George Bottomley, might claim a tribute of affectionate remembrance. Nor can I stop even to recount the names of eminent teachers—both men and women—which will be fresh in the memory of most present. Some remain among us, and some have gone to their reward.

I should like, too, to have named some of the notable men and women who have served on the Committee of

Ackworth School. The names of some have incidentally occurred already, but we have hardly mentioned William Tuke, the friend of Dr. Fothergill, and the founder of the Retreat; Dr. Dalton, whose methodical economy led him to omit his annual subscription in the years he served on the Committee; Edward Pease, the friend of Stephenson, and the father of railways; his son Joseph Pease, the first Friend returned to Parliament, a munificent contributor to the wants of Ackworth; and a host of others of whom time fails to tell. And so it does, too, of ancient customs, when the Committee Friends closed the day's labour over glasses of spirits and water, and fragrant fumes sped upwards from their long clay tobacco pipes. Amidst the grave debates of the Committee it would not be difficult to name many quaint or ludicrous passages. For example, when the wooden trenchers were abolished, a venerable Friend, with much emphasis, expressed the hope that they would be carefully preserved, as he was assured they would at no distant date be again wanted for use. The custodian of the School's archives, can perhaps say whether they are still awaiting such a resurrection?

We must not entirely omit the mention of eminent scholars. Certainly on this auspicious day Ackworth will not forget that it has on its rolls such names as those of William Allen Miller, V.P.R.S., William Howitt, Sarah Ellis *née* Stickney, Jeremiah Holmes Wiffen, Benjamin B. Wiffen, the Right Hon. James Wilson (founder of the *Economist* newspaper, and Finance Minister of India), and the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.

“Great men have been among us,
Hands that penned and tongues that uttered wisdom.”

But we must not linger on these well-known names, nor even stop to lengthen the list of the Ackworth *alumni*, for it would surely be altogether foreign to the best traditions of Ackworth if this day were allowed to pass without our making some effort to draw from the annals of the past teachings for the present and the future. Like the dying king we hear both—

“The voice of days of old and days to be.”

Nearly forty years ago, Samuel Tuke endeavoured to make an estimate of what Ackworth School had done and what it had failed in. The subdued tone of this essay contrasts pointedly with the rose-coloured tints in which his relative, Sarah Grubb, had painted her canvas half-a-century before.

“We think,” says Samuel Tuke, “there has been sufficient evidence of successful effort, to encourage those who are engaged in carrying on the Institution to persevere, and at the same time sufficient evidence of failure, in degree, at least, connected with our defective operations to stimulate us to further effort in the great service of moral teaching.” For a hundred years Ackworth School has “given instruction in the arts which it professed to teach, in a sound and efficient, and never in a superficial manner.” Its scholars were early noted for the excellence of their writing. Ackworth has sent out hundreds of admirable readers, girls famed for the beauty of their sewing, and boys quick and accurate at accounts. For sixty years it has been thorough in its Scriptural teaching, and its scholars have a wide-spread reputation for the possession of “industrious persevering habits,” as the result of regular application enforced in the School. “We know further,”

says Samuel Tuke, "that Ackworth School has given its pupils a very useful and competent introduction to the various posts in commercial and civil life which they have filled," and "many good men, fearing God and hating covetousness, have been instructed in the School, many of whom look back to their instruction there in things moral and religious and to the circumstances which surrounded them there, with grateful recollections." We think it may be further said that the type of character fostered at Ackworth has been one greatly needed in English society—distinguished by its thoroughness, its love of justice, its dislike of priestcraft in every form, its appreciation of men by their intrinsic worth rather than by their adventitious distinctions. These things, far more than the circumstance that a very few of its sons have attained to eminence, are the real glory of Ackworth, and constitute its claim to continued support and confidence. One result of the foundation of Ackworth School, not foreseen a century ago, has been the pecuniary harvest that its pupils have reaped, from the knowledge it has imparted and the habits it has implanted. The diminution of pauperism amongst Friends, in the present century, is largely due to the influence of Ackworth School.

But there is another side to the picture. Too many Ackworth pupils have belonged to an opposite class to that already described. Dr. Fothergill and his colleagues would, we believe, have been disappointed could the returns of 1843 have been laid before them, and they had seen how many had left the religious Society to which they belonged, and, what is far more to be lamented, in too many cases had left also the walks of virtue. With human

nature as it is, a certain amount of failure must always be counted on in any school. Amongst the special causes of failure in the early history of Ackworth, were an exaggerated view of what could be attained by the isolation of children from manifestly evil influences, of the power of the Church as distinct from the parent to mould the characters of its children, and a forgetfulness of the place of the affections in the complex nature of a child, which need cultivation hardly less than the conscience and the intellect. It is a danger, perhaps an inevitable danger, of all great schools, that the individuality of children's characters be overlooked, and an unelastic discipline be applied to all, without reference to the peculiarities of mental and physical temperament. The same class of mistakes are apparent in the Church economy of the day, which separated so many from church-fellowship for the act of marriage contracted in a way not recognised by the Society. The direction of changes in the last fifty years has been, in the main, an admission of these errors. The tone of moral and religious teaching has become more positive, the school it is felt, must be the ally and handmaid of the parent, not his substitute. A more generous treatment of the body, and a broader culture of the mind, are now enjoyed by the Ackworth pupils than in any past time. Necessarily, these changes bring their accompanying dangers. Ackworth School has its own traditions to cherish, and its own character to maintain and improve, not to throw overboard in the hope of obtaining a fresh one. It should jealously guard its ancient character for thoroughness in what it undertakes. It would be a grave mistake to exchange thoroughness for superficial breadth. Clear, legible hand-

writing is more to be prized than a little aptitude in drawing; accurate account keeping, good reading, correct spelling, would be badly exchanged for a smattering of French or Latin. It were, too, greatly to be regretted if Ackworth School became so expensive as to unfit it for those for whom it was first founded—"the children of parents not in affluence"—or if "plain living" were abandoned to the detriment of "high thinking." And, again, Ackworth School must emphatically be a *Friends'* School. It is true it cannot be unaffected by the movements of religious thought and life, any more than by those of social and domestic life. It were useless to attempt to reproduce in the nineteenth century precisely the type of religious character laboured after in the eighteenth. It will probably be too much to expect that all its pupils will, in after-life, remain in communion with the Society to which they are indebted for their education. But they will carry with them that which is above all price, and which is the essence of Friendly teaching, if, when they leave Ackworth School, there is impressed upon their hearts and consciences that deep sense of personal responsibility, and that loyalty to duty, which spring from faith in the abiding presence of Christ with men, irrespective of outward rite, of consecrated place, or of priestly ceremony. If with this faith is blended that love of justice, and of civil and religious freedom, and respect for the rights of men, without regard to race or language, which have characterised the noblest and the best of Ackworth Scholars, England herself will have cause to rejoice in the continued prosperity of this great School.

The measure of that prosperity rests, to no small degree,

in the hands of her own scholars. Munificent friends may find needful funds, Committees may wisely administer the affairs of the Institution, and teachers may labour with self-sacrificing devotion—but these efforts will be fruitless unless the pupils themselves worthily respond to what is done for them. The bee, it is said, ceases to store its honey in lands without a winter—so children, surrounded by every aid for the right training of spirit, mind, and body, may fail to profit by these aids, for want of that diligence and persevering application, which no external aids can ever take the place of.

Our history would have been untrue to fact had it represented the past century of Ackworth life as having realized all its founders' anticipations, or all that we hope for in the coming century. This implies no harsh judgment on past labourers, of many of whom the inspired words are true, in a very blessed sense, "Their works do follow them." Their failings were in the main those of their age, or sprang out of prevailing currents of thought for which they were but slightly responsible. None would desire more than they that their successors should profit by their experience, and so be enabled to work in a fuller and a clearer light. And truly—

"The blessing of Him whom in secret they sought
Has owned the good work which the fathers have wrought.
To Him be the glory for ever!"

This paper, written at the request of the Centenary Committee, carries its own character with it for literary and other excellence. It was repeatedly and warmly applauded. It took up about an hour and a quarter in the reading, yet it may truly be said that the attention of the auditors, and their interest, were unflagging. The proposal of the reader to leave out a portion, at one period, being met by energetic cries of "No, no; go on."

The CHAIRMAN: My friends, I think we shall all feel that an Institution which has such a pedigree—such a lengthened period of existence, and such a long line of descendants—has also historians who are worthy of it; and I am sure you will all have listened with the greatest interest to what our friend John Stephenson Rowntree has so modestly called "A Sketch of the History of Ackworth School." As we have yet to sit for a long time before the present meeting* will be brought to a close, and as some little change of position may be a relief to many of us, I propose that the children shall sing a hymn, and that we shall all stand, to change our posture before going on with the meeting.

The whole company then rose to their feet and remained standing whilst the scholars sang the hymn, commencing—

" Abide with me, fast falls the eventide,
The darkness deepens, Lord with me abide."

The CHAIRMAN: I do not know that we should fail to acknowledge a very great deal of hard work and earnest labour given in our cause; and as the friend on whom I

am going to call to address you is one who has for months been writing and labouring and thinking for this day, I am sure we shall all give him a cordial welcome. I shall now call upon William Coor Parker, of Darlington, one of the Secretaries to the Centenary Committee, to address you. (Loud applause.)

WILLIAM COOR PARKER said :—Dear Friends and School-fellows,—I want, as briefly as I can, to tell you a few facts that have come to my knowledge whilst fulfilling the pleasant duty allotted to me by the Centenary Committee. But, before doing so, I wish to say what great encouragement has been given me from day to day by receiving from old scholars, along with promises of donations, fervent expressions of gratitude for the benefit derived from Ackworth School; and how a thrill of pleasure has passed through my mind as I have noted the various donations, many of which, I feel quite certain, have been the result of self-denial. (Hear, hear.)

It may be interesting to many here to be informed who are the oldest Ackworth scholars now living. (Hear, hear.) So far as information on this point has reached me, it appears that George Wood, of Chelmsford, numbered 1,838 on the list, who came to this School in 1796, and left in 1801, and who is now living at Chelmsford in his 93rd year, is the oldest Ackworth Scholar now living. (Applause.) The next is very near to him, No. 1,921, John Whitlark, of Rotherhithe, who came to the School in 1797, and left in 1801, and is now living at Finedon, in Northamptonshire, in his 91st year. (Applause.) The oldest "girl" of whom I have heard—(laughter)—I do not like to call her

a woman—is No. 2,260, my cousin, Elizabeth Binks, now living at Wakefield, in her 89th year. It is probable there may be some older "old scholars," and if there are I should be glad to hear of them at some future time.

With reference to the Chairman's remarks about old Ackworth scholars being scattered over the face of the world, I have thought it might be pleasant to revive the memory of some of them by mentioning facts in connection with them which have come to my knowledge. On the Continent of Europe I only know of one old Ackworth Scholar—Joshua Smith Wood—who is actively connected with the railway system in Denmark. I have a letter from William Wetherald, of Ontario, Canada, who settled there with his father in 1835, in which he says, "How I should rejoice to meet with you and renew my brotherhood with some whose names are yet familiar to me. It is no disparagement of the past of Ackworth to echo the prayer of J. G. Whittier in his grand Centennial Hymn:—

' Cast in some diviner mould,
Let the new cycle shame the old.' "

On the same Continent we have also James Bowron, who is engaged in developing a great iron industry in Tennessee, initiated by our late lamented friend Thomas Whitwell. I have also a letter from an old Ackworth scholar now in New York, Henry Dickinson, expressing his great interest in the School. He says, "Ackworth School will ever be dear to me; I spent three very sorrowful months there; then, by the kind attentions of dear Thomas Brown, Henry Brady, and Edwin Laundry, I became reconciled and comforted, and was doubtless greatly helped by the remaining twenty-one months I spent there."

There are many Ackworth scholars in Australia and New Zealand, with whom communication has been opened, but there has not been time to hear from many of them. Donations to the Centenary Fund have, however, been received from Melbourne, Adelaide, and Tasmania, and a handsome contribution from Sydney in New South Wales. In the city of Sydney, Dr. John Le Gay Brereton, an old Ackworth scholar, is practising medicine successfully; and we have others in the same neighbourhood, including Thomas Lidbetter, once the Captain of the *Swarthmore*, and who was certainly a great favourite wherever he was known. I must also allude to Dr. John Cash Neild, of Sydney, a scholar here and afterwards an apprentice, who will probably be remembered by some now present as the best skipper in the School. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) After leaving here he studied medicine and surgery, and graduated with great honour. He practised in Bristol for many years, and then, on account of the health of his family, he emigrated with them to New Zealand in 1853, and prospered there until the Maorie war in 1860. He was for five months in a beleagured town amid all the perils and horrors of savage warfare, and then he removed to Sydney, where he has been greatly blessed, not only in outward affairs but also in his family. He will now be about sixty-three years of age, and in writing to me he says:—"And now I am here, intending no further removal till the great final one which all of us must make, and for which I humbly hope I am not unprepared."

In the course of the eight months which have elapsed since we got vigorously to work in this matter, some of our old school-fellows have departed this life. Amongst them

I would notice Thomas Firth, a schoolfellow of Walter Wilson, who spoke at our meeting last night. Just previous to his decease he wrote out fifteen pages of recollections of his school-life, which have been placed in the hands of Henry Thompson for such use in the forthcoming History of the School as he thinks fit. He sealed the papers up, directed them to me with a letter, affixed the stamps, but did not live to post them, and his interesting recollections and letter were sent to me by one of his executors. I will mention one item to which he refers. He speaks of the way in which scholars were made useful at Ackworth in his day, and says that he was employed in rolling a field with the big bull, which he says was not right, and in harrowing with two oxen. (Laughter.)

Knowing the estimation in which J. B. Braithwaite is held, I think I may mention what he says. He writes:—"I should like to see a thoroughly good library established for the use of the teachers, in addition to any scientific apparatus, &c." And again he says:—"It is a matter in which I very heartily sympathise, and which I desire may be crowned with the blessing that can alone give the permanent increase."

In looking over the list of old Ackworth scholars, which I have frequently done, I have been struck, not so much with the great and distinguished names which are on every lip this day, such as Bright—(cheers)—Howitt, Wiffen, Miller, and others; but the fact which has made the greatest impression on my mind is the extent to which education throughout the country is indebted to Ackworth School. (Hear, hear.) I have been agreeably surprised at the great number of educators, not only in the public

schools of our Society but also in many of the highly useful private schools, who owe the foundation of their education to Ackworth School; and I cannot but think of the untold and ever-increasing blessings which are likely to result from their labours.

In speaking to J. W. Pease, M.P., he said to me,—“ I consider that this Centenary is not only interesting to old Ackworth scholars, and to the members of the Society of Friends, but it appears to me to be an event of national interest and importance; for go where I will throughout the length and breadth of this land I find within a distance of a few miles some old scholar from Ackworth School who is doing good work and service for those around him.” (Hear, hear.) I do not think that statement is much exaggerated, and I very much desire that, as just expressed by John Rowntree, we may continue the useful and thorough character of the education given here;—practical education for the work of this life, and that sound Scriptural education which is of such high value to all of us. (Hear, hear.) I also desire that we may not confine our ideas within any narrow groove, but let us endeavour to make the education given here such as will fit the scholars for the needs and requirements of the present day, changing as we know they constantly are. (Hear, hear.) I think if we act in this broad and liberal spirit we shall be best carrying out the wise and fruitful words of the beloved founder of our religious Society when he desired that the children of this people might be taught all things civil and useful in the creation. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN: A number of old Ackworth scholars

will now say a few words to us. We are all so full of the subject that we don't know where to start, and we could go on telling tales of our schoolboy days until night. As time will not permit of that, we must limit each succeeding speaker to ten minutes, and when nine minutes have expired I shall unflinchingly touch this bell, so that the speaker may have one minute's warning to wind up his remarks. (Laughter.)

HENRY THOMPSON, of Kendal, said: John Stephenson Rowntree has stated that if Dr. Fothergill could look over the papers of his late lamented father he would probably be somewhat disappointed with the results he there found depicted; but I have been thinking that if Dr. Fothergill and some other of his large-minded associates had been here this morning where we are now favoured to sit, and had looked upon this large congregation, they could not have been disappointed in what they saw. (Hear, hear.) It is my duty to make a few observations on the quality of the education that was in existence during the first fifty years of this School, and also with reference to what in all probability may be wise in the future. We all know that this School has been of enormous value for our Society, and that value is not confined to what has resulted immediately from this School, but from the Schools entrusted to men trained in it. Amongst the many virtues and traits of the late Robert Whitaker's character was the gift to appreciate the powers of the young people committed to his care, and his ability to instil into them his own sentiments, and to enable them to become like-minded with himself. The result of this was that before he had been

here many years he had gathered around him a number of men of his own training, capable of carrying out his own ideas of education in a very remarkable manner. From 1812 to 1828 there was a state of animation amongst the young teachers which it would be difficult to find surpassed amongst the teachers of the present day. The spirit thus infused into the teachers produced a spirit of like enterprise amongst the children, and the amount of energy and vitality which then prevailed must have affected the interests of the School to a very remarkable extent.

(The speaker was then compelled to bring his remarks to a close, as the bell intimated that the time allotted to him had expired.)

HENRY ASHWORTH, of Bolton, was the next speaker. He said:—For me to appear before an audience like this is very embarrassing, and I am scarcely able to express myself. In the first instance let me say that it behoves this meeting to acknowledge in very grateful terms the acceptable character of the centennial proceedings of last night and this morning. Some of the friends who spoke last night, and others who have addressed you this morning, have given you very interesting accounts of their own early connection with this School, and their proceedings when at Ackworth. I have not much to say to you, so far as regards my own connection, which was for one year only as a pupil at this School. The residence of my parents was a long way distant from any Friends' school, and the early portion of my education was received in an institution founded by Humphrey Cheetham, a name well known for benevolence in Lancashire. At that school I dare say if I had been

under examination I should have shown myself very proficient in a knowledge of the Church Catechism, and perhaps also of the Thirty-nine Articles. (Laughter.) My parents became solicitous in regard to this fact, and at thirteen years of age I was sent to Ackworth School with a view no doubt to obliterate some of that theology which I had already been taught, and to acquire a knowledge of those principles which are more in accordance with the views of a member of the Society of Friends. The evening readings of the literature of Friends, before the boys retired to bed; was then one of the most prominent of the School regulations. I remember quite well, and shall as long as I live, some of the most impressive portions of the life of George Fox and other early members of our Society, not only with regard to the principles they preached, but also in regard to the sufferings they endured; and before I had been here twelve months I had become so impressed and indoctrinated with the principles of the Society of Friends that, if called upon, I believe I should have been ready to suffer as others had done on behalf of those principles. (Applause.)

With regard to the future, let us look forward to a higher scale of teaching within the Ackworth institution. A library has been announced, and generously subscribed for, and means are proposed whereby to give a higher education and advanced position to those children who may be associated at this School, although it has been remarked that Ackworth scholars have in after life distinguished themselves in most parts of the kingdom as well as in other parts of the world. Let us, by way of contrast, take thought of the advantages that those leaving Ackworth School had

already received, in a higher scale of teaching than those amongst whom they were called upon to mix and to compete in public life, and thus we may account for much of their success. We have now come to a period when popular education is being undertaken on a very large scale, and it may hereafter be found necessary in these times of progress that the Society of Friends should endeavour to keep ahead as far as possible of those children who have benefited by the schooling of public institutions. There has now been opened out a very wide field for advancement in life by means of intelligence such as had not been opened out in some of our earlier school days. In those days we used to hear at our Monthly and Quarterly Meetings that boys and girls leaving Ackworth School were wanting situations as handicraftsmen or as female domestic servants; but in the progress of time it has been shown that we have now less need to provide an education for mere handicraftsmen or female domestic servants, and I may remark that at the present time I do not know of a single individual as an Ackworth Scholar who is either a handicraftsman or a domestic servant in the Society of Friends in my own neighbourhood, or who has any need to take such positions in life. (Applause.) Let us bear in mind that it is of the highest importance that the intelligence imparted here will have to encounter a wide field of competition in after life in the prosecution of those means of earning a livelihood, which all of us are called upon in duty to fulfil. Whilst on the subject of school training for useful life, let us take a forecast of the future on behalf of the youth of this Institution, and consider the wide range of industrial

and other pursuits which are ever requiring the use of heads and hands. In the ordering of Providence it will be found that there is no lack of useful occupations—the productions of the various portions of the earth's surface are not alike, one country is made to provide one article and another another, whether for food or raw material of manufacture, and in the interchange of these commodities the various occupations of commerce are provided. Looking in another direction, and keeping in mind the Divine purpose, we find that “out of the hills” we “dig brass,” and under our feet are found abundant supplies of minerals and metals, all of which are made to furnish an incalculable extent of occupation and employment for the skill, the industry, and the use of man. Thus by manipulation, and in a wonderful manner, we have found ourselves provided with all the utensils and implements required in every-day life, together with the wondrous power of locomotion and navigation now so universally adopted. Don't let it be supposed that the Ackworth scholar is unequal to any of these pursuits. It is well known that most of our great inventors who have ministered so largely and so beneficially to our welfare have for the most part, if not entirely, been men of very moderate education and not those of our universities.

THOMAS PUPLETT, of Ackworth, said: If my friend William Coor Parker could commence his remarks with the words, “My dear old schoolfellows,” I can address a still larger number now present as my dear old pupils: and I wish to express my grateful feelings to you, my old pupils, and to you my younger ones, for the very

kind reception you have accorded me at this General Meeting, and this Centenary. I had the privilege, which, probably, no one else in this tent has enjoyed, of spending forty-three years, with a slight break by way of change, in this School. Much the largest portion of that time was spent as a teacher, and, as a teacher, I would make a very few remarks to you now. When my school-days were drawing to a close, a strong desire came over my mind to be a teacher. I especially remember one wet First-day morning, as the boys were walking up and down in the shed with their chosen companions; this feeling came upon me with unusual force and power. But I had not courage enough to speak to any one on the subject, and there was every probability of my being placed in the shop of a confectioner, with whom my friends, with that view, were already in correspondence. Just in time, however, to rescue me from this, my late beloved and honoured friend, Thomas Pumphrey, knowing nothing of what had been passing in my mind, called me one day into the office and asked me if I should like to be a teacher. I was ready at once with an answer, but he wished me, in a matter of so much importance, to take a few days for serious consideration, and then to wait upon him again. This was attended to; I gladly gave in my decision, and in due time I became a junior teacher in Ackworth School. I was with Thomas Pumphrey, in one capacity or other, during the whole period of his lengthened service here; and perhaps I can testify more fully than most now present, to the untiring effort, the ability, the skill, the love, and the energy, with which he devoted himself to the interests of this dear old School, a scene of labour from which he retired to die,

a very few months afterwards, in an adjoining cottage. (Hear, hear.)

As regards the office of a teacher, I can magnify that office without magnifying myself. It is an honourable and a useful calling; and I solemnly declare in this large assembly, that if health and strength and youth and vigour were again mine, and I had to make choice of an outward occupation, the vocation of a teacher is that which I would again seek. But with what deepened feelings would I approach my labour! On bended knee at the throne of grace I would implore more perseverance, more self-denial, more qualification in all respects to labour for the varied interests of my precious charge. Never have I been so deeply impressed with the high privileges of the teacher's office as during the two years I have been withdrawn from active service. I commend the calling to those who are seeking it. It is an occupation on which the Divine blessing largely rests. I took it up with pleasure;—I laid it down with deep regret, if that be a word not unsuitable to use. Still, I appropriate nothing to myself; I know I was a poor blundering teacher, but I had great enjoyment in my occupation, and that I can say from my very heart.

The dear old ship of Ackworth School, if at times she has encountered rough seas, has had on the whole a prosperous voyage. She has come now into a snug little harbour. There let her rest awhile, then let us launch her again! She will carry, as she has often carried before, a very precious living freight: she will be manned by an able and a willing crew: she will have on board a brave young captain—(applause)—well-skilled in the science of scholastic navigation; and he can wire at any moment to

any one of his six-and thirty directors stationed at various points on the land. But, above all, let us commit her to Him whom wind and waves still obey, who can clear away the dangerous mists, reveal the sunken rock, and give ability to avoid the angry breakers. Yes, let us launch her again, trusting that He who has blessed her hitherto will continue to speed her on her way, not only during another year, but throughout another century should so lengthened a course be again allotted her. ("Hear, hear," and applause.)

ROBERT HENRY MARSH, of London, an old Ackworth scholar and teacher said : I have the misfortune—for I suppose it must be considered so when addressing a meeting such as this—of belonging to a period in the history of the School when rebellions were things of the past, and we were content to wonder at the traditions of the doings of our predecessors without ourselves attempting any resistance to the powers that were. We have all however, I feel sure, greatly enjoyed hearing to-day of the sins of our fathers. Our reminiscences—and I speak for those who, like myself, have been here in the course of the last fourteen years—are very mild and uneventful in comparison with theirs. We did not enter the great building, which I have heard compared to a huge workhouse, by a narrow passage between high stone walls, resembling the entrance of a prison. I remember well the first evening I saw Ackworth School in the light of a summer sunset, and I remember, too, the warm welcome that I, and every child, received from the Superintendent and his wife, causing us to feel at home at once, and making that "settling-in"—like all

succeeding ones—so pleasant and easy. Of course we had our small troubles, in those days even. I always had the happy faculty of discovering a wrong way of doing things, and I well remember my experiences on the first morning that I spent at Ackworth. Firstly, I studied practical bed-making for twenty-five minutes with very poor success, and at length, giving up in despair, I set off to discover the way downstairs. Needless to say, I went in the wrong direction, and finding myself in the “Reading-room” was greatly impressed by the sight of the endless rows of empty forms, and have never since been able to enter that room without a feeling of awe. Continuing my explorations I arrived in the “Great-Kitchen”—(laughter)—and was even more impressed by my surroundings there than I had been in the “Reading-room”; but, finally, I made my way on to the play-ground—without having discovered the “washing-cellars,” thinking in my heart that cleanliness could hardly be numbered among the many virtues of Ackworth School. (Laughter.) Now—thanks to the liberality of the Friends who have provided the new lavatories—such misapprehensions are no longer possible.

I have spoken of the pleasure it has given us to hear of the sins of our forefathers, but still greater has been our pleasure in hearing of their triumphs. The outburst of enthusiasm evoked by the mention of the name of John Bright, proved—if anything were necessary to prove—the pride which we all feel in the achievements of old Ackworth scholars. Such a meeting as this, is not, I suppose, the place to make any political allusions; but we are confidently hoping that when the present Prime Minister shall be pleased—or shall be compelled—to dissolve Parliament

and the result of the poll at the next election for the borough of Chelsea shall be declared, another Ackworth scholar will be counted among the members of the House of Commons. ("Hear, hear," and applause.)

Our reminiscences, if not exciting, are yet most happy ones, nor shall we forget our Ackworth walks, or our splendid slides; and, as I have to-day met one old school-fellow after another—happy in revisiting Ackworth once again—it has seemed more like a great "family gathering" than anything else, united as we all are by happy recollections of our school-days, and by our love for the old School. We have all listened with the greatest pleasure to the speech of Thomas Puplett—(hear, hear)—and, lacking words of my own, I will, with his kind permission, which I have not asked before, for the very good reason that I feared it might not be granted, conclude by quoting from a poem written by him on the occasion of the "Leaving Party" at the School, ten years ago:—

"Time's tooth hath touched thee. Many a scar appears,
And wrinkles graven by the lapse of years;
And where the chisel's choicest work was made—
Cornice and plinth and column's crowning head—
There first thy sandy atoms fall away,
In silent, unobserved, yet sure decay.
Still thou art strong, and children yet untold
Shall seek thy shelter, herd within thy fold;
The Past, the Present, pour their grateful song,
The Future shall the joyous note prolong;
Mother august, at Justice' high behest,
Thousands of sons shall rise and call thee blest!"

(Loud cheers.)

GEORGE FREDERICK LINNEY, of Croydon, said: My dear friends and fellow-scholars, I presume I have been

asked to address a few words to you because the name of Linney has been known in connection with this School for fifty years, this year. (Applause.) In 1829, my dear father commenced to serve this School; and he served it to the best of his ability for nearly forty years. Since that time one or other of his sons has been in the service of the School, in one position or another. It is my great pleasure to testify that to Ackworth School I owe what I have and what I am; and with this School, through the blessing of God Almighty, my interests are closely associated. Being now at the head of another educational institution, I am still proud to stand here and testify my loyalty to this School, and I am pleased to meet such a large number of old Ackworth scholars. I remember Ackworth School when it was in a very different condition from what it is now. I remember the old prison-like entrance; I remember the old stable; I remember the fine old trees at the entrance being cut down; and I remember all the changes in the buildings, and the old bath. (Hear, hear.) I did not dislike the old bath, but enjoyed it always; and I was one of the first bathers in the new bath. It has been my pleasure and my duty for ten years to be associated with another School whose position and prospects have been very different from those of Ackworth. Only yesterday the last stick of my old home at Croydon was removed, and now I am here without a home. We are to enter upon our fresh one at Saffron Walden in a few days. Ours has been a home of change, but Ackworth was more of a resting-place. I come here to receive from old friends encouragement from the past, and hope for the future. I have met many old Ackworth scholars here, and I know

that some of them have had both their ups and their downs in life. Let us remember that in this life we are all subject both to these ups and downs. The grain we send to the mill to grind if not well ground does not come out superfine flour, and the better it is ground the better is the quality of the stuff when it is finished, therefore, do not let us be discouraged if the stones grind hard, for there is a God above who watches the grinding. Let us look forward with hope, and remember that the words of the poet are still true, "The mills of God grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly small." I can look back with much sorrow and with some discouragement at some of the time I spent here as a teacher; but I want every one to remember that teachers require, and value the kind and the constant support of the parents of the children. I have nothing to complain of in this respect. I believe the time is coming when parents will take a deeper interest in the education of their children, and will understand and sympathise with the occupation of the teacher; when the occupation of the teacher will be looked forward to, and looked up to, as something more honourable than it has been in the past, and I would say to the young, in conclusion, "Don't be always looking to an occupation which will necessarily enable you to make money, because—although money is a good thing and we can't do without it—there is another thing to remember, doing good to your fellow-men; and you can't do that better than by teaching the human mind and training the human soul for heaven. (Applause.)

J. S. HODGSON, of Manchester, read extracts from two

letters of Mary Howitt, and one from Anna Mary Watts (William and Mary Howitt's daughter), relative to the interest taken by the late William Howitt in the Centenary, and to his illness and death.

"Rome, Feb. 4th, 1879.

"I write for my husband, who is just now labouring under an attack of bronchitis, or you would have heard from himself before now. . . .

"He sympathises warmly with the movement regarding the Centennial of Ackworth School. . . .

(Signed) "MARY HOWITT."

"Rome, Feb. 24th, 1879.

"My dear husband, who is still confined to bed by his illness, wishes me to write the following from his dictation—
'My indisposition continuing, it would be impossible for me to send you anything for your lecture on Ackworth in March—but I trust before the Centennial I shall be able to write you a paper containing my views of Ackworth School and the principles of Friends generally—together with my contribution.' . . .

(Signed) "MARY HOWITT."

FROM WILLIAM HOWITT'S DAUGHTER, ANNA MARY WATTS.

"Rome, March 10th, 1879.

"You will ere this have heard that my beloved father, William Howitt, has passed to the higher Life. His end was peace, and the spirit of perfect love, patience, gentleness, meekness, and hope in a future life which he displayed throughout his illness can alone be pictured by those who, like ourselves were privileged to attend upon him during the last weeks of his life.

"The morning before his decease he said 'There is a passage in Scripture which exactly describes my present state—"The

whole head is sick and the whole heart faint,"—but remember that, when I have got rid of this clod of a body, and have gone to my generation, you must rejoice with me.'

"Though he was weakened in body, his mind retained its bright intellect undimmed to the last hour of his existence here. His last words addressed to us were thanks to the Almighty for all His infinite goodness to him, and blessing upon us all—upon his friends—upon, as he said, 'all the world.'"

"At various times during his illness he referred with the greatest pleasure and interest to the proposed Ackworth School Centenary. In the earlier period of his illness, when he hoped for recovery, he several times spoke of the letter or address which he had on his mind to write for you. It evidently was a subject of pleasurable contemplation to him.

"On the Sunday (March 2nd) preceding his decease he asked me to get pen and paper and write a few words, 'for I have still one thing on my mind to say.' 'In looking back upon my life nothing gives me more satisfaction than the recollection that in all my writings I have sought to carry out the principles of the Society of Friends, and I have sought to carry out always those principles in life as well as in my writings, believing them to be the complete expression of the pure Christianity of the Gospels.

"'There is one work not generally known to be mine to which I would like to direct your special attention, "The Pictorial History of England," published by Cassell, the greater portion of which is written by me. It is a happy recollection to have thus widely spread, in the form of a History of England, the principles of the Society of Friends—principles which have ever been so dear to me.'

"It may interest you to know that the last work upon which my dear father was occupied was 'The Life of George Fox and his Friends,' with which he was more or less busied for the last ten years. In almost my last conversation with my father he told me that he had greatly hoped to have been permitted to complete this work during the course of the present year. That he

had brought the narrative up to the Swarthmore period. The question was, he said, whether or not the work should be published as a fragment after his decease.

(Signed) "ANNA MARY WATTS."

J. F. BOTTOMLEY FIRTH said that he had been very much interested in examining the specimens of writing in the Fothergill room. Many people knew what an excellent set of writers Ackworth turned out in the last generation, and in that room there were examples of the work of the writing-masters of those days. Whatever might be said with respect to the improvement of Ackworth in other things it could not be said that it had improved in its writers.

No doubt the improvements in many things were very marked, but with them all it perhaps might be open to some question whether they would succeed in turning out a finer generation of men than were produced under the old system, with its sanded floors and its harder methods of life.

There were many people who expressed the opinion that the cost of education in Ackworth was too high. As to that, he was of the opinion that the Board Schools of the country were likely to run the Institution very close in the matter of a simple secular education; but Ackworth was not kept on foot simply as a secular institution, but also as a denominational school; and therefore, from our point of view, it was to serve a higher purpose than a simple public school. It was also to train children up in the tenets of a particular religious faith. For such a purpose a much rarer type of teacher was required than was required for the teaching of secular subjects merely. When teachers were obtained, able and willing to impart both kinds of

teaching, they should be well paid, and at a higher rate than ordinary teachers, because a double qualification was required from them.

If the teachers selected for the School possessed this double qualification he considered that it would be impossible to over-estimate the power for good which rested in their hands. There could not, in his judgment, be a higher and better mission than that of training and sending out into the world large numbers of children well grounded in those principles of civil and religious liberty, and constitutional freedom, which are the foundation of all true national life.

WILLIAM TAYLOR, of Middlesborough, said: The few minutes allotted to us allow space for neither apologies nor prefaces from the speakers; neither am I about to follow the example of a previous speaker and convert this platform into a confessional. I was a scholar here in the year of the Jubilee, and in referring to it I would say that I act upon the maxim of that old gamekeeper who said,—“What is hit is history, and what is missed is mystery.” (Laughter.) As to the Jubilee itself, I need only say it differed as much in its celebration from the festivities of to-day as the costumes of the fair visitors present to those that assembled then. There are three points in connection with that year of Jubilee to which I would like to refer for a few moments. In the few minutes of leisure I have had here I have compared the writing at this School forty or fifty years ago with that of the present day, and, after doing so, I say that the writing of to-day does not strike me as manifesting any considerable improvement on that

of forty or fifty years ago. (Laughter.) With respect to the reading, some of the old scholars would place the reading of fifty years ago in competition with the reading we heard yesterday; but I must at the same time add that fifty years ago it would have been too daring to attempt a recitation like that we heard yesterday.

Thomas Puplett has alluded, in language which has gone home to the hearts of many of us, to the past history of this School, and I have always great pleasure in looking back to the advantages, the kindnesses, and the blessings, I received at this School. (Hear, hear.) I think that Ackworth School is destined to be of great use in the work of Sabbath-school teaching, and it would have been very interesting to us to-day to have heard the number of old Ackworth Scholars who are now employed in teaching in our schools on First-day. (Hear, hear.) I acknowledge, on behalf of many hundreds of our Sunday School teachers, that as we come Sabbath morning after Sabbath morning to our duties, our minds go back to the time we spent here and the truths impressed upon us here; and my earnest desire is that Ackworth's highest ambition in the future shall be that from amongst her sons and her daughters there shall go out many into all parts of this great world so prompted by the teaching they have received here as to induce them to identify themselves with the great Sabbath School movement; and that it shall be Ackworth's greatest glory in the future that from her have flowed the truths of the Bible, and that those who have gone from this School have helped to swell that great and noble army (which shall still increase and swell), and have assisted in spreading

throughout the world a knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, that highest knowledge of which man can be possessed. I trust that this may be Ackworth's greatest ambition and noblest work, until that time arrives when the "earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

GEORGE SATTERTHWAITE—who was for eleven years the Superintendent of the School—said : I know not whether I can command my feelings sufficiently to give expression to a few thoughts on this deeply-interesting occasion : meeting with so many old associates, teachers, and scholars, recalls so vividly the eleven years I and my dear wife held the reins of office. I well remember one who had been a teacher and done good service to the dear old School—Henry Wilson—now of Kendal, whose name has not been mentioned to-day—(hear, hear,)—saying to me, soon after my appointment, "I hope thine will be a quiet reign, for I know how much of Thomas Pumphrey's time and energies have been taken up during his administration with the great alterations and additions to the premises, of which you are now reaping the great advantage;" intimating that what was then needed was more of quiet insight into the daily routine and inner life of the School. I soon felt how much of indebtedness was incurred by those who succeeded our late dear friend for all he had planned and undertaken during his lengthened superintendence, and was, and am, thankful that some years of quiet rule were permitted, unworthy as I felt, and still feel, of the privilege of forming one link in the chain of those by whom the great ship has been guided.

Reference has been made to the Masters' Meetings in the olden time, and the probable dread they inspired. I well recollect, by way of contrast, that, whilst we had not unfrequently to deliberate on delinquencies and penalties, other and more pleasing subjects also claimed our attention. We discussed the point of trusting to the boys' honour a little more in various ways, and of allowing certain privileges on holiday afternoons as one way of evidencing this trust; and I have a pleasant remembrance of the time when the boys who went out alone the first time one Seventh-day afternoon lighted a bonfire on Went Hill, in commemoration of the event, and much more in the same direction has been successfully done since my time.

I agree with John S. Rowntree in the description he has given of the probable over-estimates of the influence of boarding-schools, apart from parental care, in the earlier patrons of Ackworth School; but I wish to take this opportunity of saying a little on the benefit of boarding-school life and its associations. There are friendships formed here and at other schools which are life-long. How is it when we come here in large numbers as to-day? With the great majority is it not a pleasurable reminiscence, despite some hardships, the memory of which still remains? The opportunity for influencing others for good is a privilege of boarding-school life, to be availed of by teachers and elder scholars, which no other position can so adequately give. I thank many of the teachers who are here to-day for their kind support and upholding of the hands of myself and my wife. I trust with regard to the future of Ackworth, in an educational point of view, that what Joseph John Gurney described, in speaking of views of religious truth will

be pursued, "The true middle course is always the safest and best," or similar words. We must keep pace with the times, and at the same time guard against going too fast. Let us ever maintain the standard of a good sound English education being well-grounded into the scholars. Public examiners have always testified to this being our character. Let it continue, and with the present tone of the School, and the Superintendent and teachers co-operating in the heart-education as well as the intellectual, as I believe they do, I look hopefully forward to the future. ("Hear, hear," and applause.)

WILLIAM JONES, of Middlesborough, said: It is now forty years since I arrived at this School, and I may truly say that the feelings of my heart this day, in remembrance of that time, are those of deep and humble thankfulness to God that I was ever permitted to come to the Institution. Never in the whole annals of the School did there come a more hopeless case than that of the little slim lad out of a remote place in North Wales. At nine years of age, with scarcely a dozen words of English, I landed amongst 180 boys; and the Superintendent in his first report to my parents wrote that "William was as wild as a goat off the Welsh hills."

I had an older brother in the School, but, in spite of the well-meant efforts of our master, Robert Doeg, who "forbade us to whisper" in the bedrooms except in Welsh, all conversation was cut off, my brother having forgotten his native tongue, and I had not acquired English.

The ex-Superintendent, Robert Whitaker also invited us to his house to read to him in the Welsh Bible, of which

he was very fond, having lived for some years at Llanidloes, in North Wales. It is an interesting psychological fact, that in about six months my mother-tongue was entirely gone, and replaced by the English, as I distinctly remember my uncle from Hereford bringing a cousin to the School, and making vain attempts to get up a Welsh conversation. At a tender age languages are easily lost, or easily acquired, conversationally.

In the Latin class at Ackworth the foundation was laid for that taste for languages which was developed in later years, and which proved of great service to myself and others in connection with the work of the War Victims' Fund during the Franco-German War, and with a similar mission on behalf of the Society of Friends to Turkey and Bulgaria.

The speaker then referred to some amusing incidents in connection with his school-days at Ackworth, and concluded a very interesting address by reciting the Lord's Prayer in the Welsh language, having, as he stated, re-acquired the language in later years.

Frederick Andrews, the Superintendent, was now called on—"The young Captain," so styled in a quotation from a previous speaker.

FREDERICK ANDREWS said: In addressing the students at a large school a few days ago, Mr. Gladstone spoke of "the noble and ancient memories connected with many great schools in the country. They ought to appeal with resistless force to all those who belong to them not to prove unworthy of these great memories." If old Ackworth scholars recognise the force of these remarks, surely we—

the present teachers and scholars—must feel that the School has greater and grander memories than even we previously conceived. (Hear, hear.) Though we labour under many disadvantages, let us all do our best to prove worthy of the great memories which have been recorded in our hearing this morning. A few weeks ago I wrote to our Quaker Poet, John Whittier, and asked him to write an ode for this occasion. Whilst declining, on account of ill-health, he said he could regard it as a privilege to aid in the proposed commemoration of the useful and venerable School; and he concluded by expressing a hope that the Institution would remain true to the idea of its worthy founders. If there were time I should like to show that during the twenty years I have been connected with this School, although it has been advancing in many directions, it has yet remained true to the idea of its worthy founders. I was here during the latter part of Thomas Pumphrey's long and successful reign. George Satterthwaite followed, and in his time I saw the gradual breaking down of the spirit of antagonism between teachers and boys. I knew the School during the course of Josiah Evans's reign; and, following him, I found the curriculum of the School, whilst retaining the thoroughness characteristic of the old Ackworth education, considerably widened. Josiah Evans infused increased vigour into the teaching, and I believe for years to come his reign here will be remembered with gratitude by those who were scholars at the time. ("Hear, hear," and applause.)

Only a few days ago I read a letter written by some school girls to the Poet Longfellow, in which they asked him how he could write so many things which sounded as

if he was as happy as a boy; and Longfellow replied by referring them to a pear-tree in the neighbourhood, two hundred years old, which still bore fruit not to be distinguished from the young tree in flavour. "I suppose," said he, "the tree makes new wood every year, so that some part of it is always young; perhaps that is the way with some men when they grow old. I hope that is so with me." (Hear, hear.) At this time we have seen many old Ackworth scholars growing young again in the recollection of their school-days. This sympathy with young life must be the continual experience of teachers, because when they lose the power to make new wood the sooner they retire from their positions the better. (Hear, hear.) This School—to apply the simile to it—has been planted for a hundred years, and has made new wood every year, and every year has turned out from sixty to a hundred scholars. We must use our best efforts that this may continue to be so in the future, and that the vitality of the old School be in no degree lessened. Thus, upon a review of the past history of the School, we can assuredly agree with the lines of Whittier, written for an occasion similar to the present:—

"Not vainly the gift of its founder was made;
Not prayerless the stones of its corner were laid;
The blessing of Him whom in secret they sought,
Has owned the good work which the fathers have wrought;"

and can re-echo with earnest goodwill his aspiration:—

"Long live the good School, giving out year by year,
Recruits to true manhood and womanhood dear;
Brave boys, modest maidens, in beauty sent forth,
The living epistles and proof of its worth."

(Cheers.)

The dinner bell had long since rung, and, to those who knew the regularity of Ackworth rules, it seemed an awful thing that it should be unheeded.

Moreover the children awaited their centenary meal, and simple as it was it was still an improvement on ordinary fare. What children are insensible to such a consideration?

Thought for them had led not only to a rigid adherence to the rule of the Committee that speeches should be limited to ten minutes each, but also to some final curtailment of the proceedings; nevertheless the proposal of a vote of thanks to the indefatigable members of the Centenary Committee, and more especially to the Secretaries, met with three hearty and well-merited cheers in response.

EDWARD GRIPPER (of Nottingham) proposed a vote of thanks to the Centenary Committee and to William Coor Parker and Alfred Simpson, the two Secretaries to the Committee.

GEORGE WILLIAM BINNS (of Croydon) seconded the motion. He said: We shall all be willing to bear testimony to their services during the past few months, and it is only due to William Coor Parker and Alfred Simpson to say that we are extremely grateful to them.

The motion was carried with three cheers.

WILLIAM COOR PARKER returned thanks, and the meeting was brought to a close.

The large assembly now poured out of the tent, and proceeded in search of dinner, wherever their instincts or the hospitality of their kind friends at Ackworth prompted them.

The Refreshment Tent received many visitors.

After dinner there was an interesting ceremony: the planting at the bottom of the Green, in commemoration of the Centenary, of two purple beech trees, which had been presented by an old scholar,—Robert E. Giles, of Derby. One tree was planted by the youngest child in the School, the infant daughter of the Superintendent. She performed her part very creditably, her mother guiding her hand, amidst a throng of admiring spectators; a silver trowel having been provided for the purpose by another old scholar,—Joseph Simpson, of Ashbourne. This was presented to the little planter, and a commemorative inscription has since been engraved upon it.

The second tree was planted by one of the youngest boys in the School, Herbert Clark, of Manchester.

After the planting of the first tree, the Superintendent said that it had been intended at that time to present each girl and boy with a Commemoration medal, but only a sufficient number had then come to hand to supply the girls. Those for the boys were expected to arrive later in the day, and would be presented afterwards. This was done the next day. The medals were the gift of Smith Harrison, of London, George Stacey Gibson, of Saffron Walden, and James Reckitt, of Hull. Each of the girls received one from the hands of the last-named Friend, he making a few appropriate remarks. These pleasant ceremonies, and

announcements, were accompanied by great applause on the part of the juvenile spectators.

William Coor Parker also announced that James Hack Tuke wished to present a commemoration medal in bronze to each teacher in the School.

A little before three o'clock, a spectator standing on the hill close to the Flounders Institution would have had a lovely view. The country around, verdant exceedingly, even for "leafy June," bathed in such sunshine as June only gives, yet the heat tempered by the most refreshing breeze. The School, no longer altogether drab, but gay in its holiday attire, with its flags floating out in the wind, as if they knew that everyone was joyful, and that Ackworth School was 100 years old. In the field immediately below, figures are seen, people begin to gather, men in dark clothes, women dressed in every variety of shape, and there are other figures, puzzling at first, but which our spectator makes out to be athletes. Drawn by the attraction common to his species, he goes down hill for a nearer view. The crowd increases, and forms a large hollow square, the inner rank sitting, and mostly composed of ladies, the outer ranks standing, all interested in the athletic games which now begin. We fear our unpractised pen can do no adequate justice to the powers of the youthful competitors, and that we must leave to the imagination of posterity to conceive how well they maintained the credit of Ackworth scholars for muscular training, in their contests, as they ran, jumped, and finally played their game at football; some of them also affording specimens of those performances under difficulties which prove amusing alike to the rustic and the grave Quaker mind. Avaunt thee! Ascetic,

we are enjoying our holiday. What need is there of thee?

And so ended our Olympic games, by bard unsung?
Who can tell?

So many were the objects of interest and pleasure this bright day, that we are in some danger of forgetting that it was not on land alone that our athletes competed. Before the meeting in the marquee, an aquatic entertainment was provided, in the large swimming-bath, the sides of which were thronged by spectators. A number of prizes for skill in swimming and diving were offered by visitors, and received by the successful competitors. Robert B. Oddie, of Ackworth, was here Master of the Ceremonies. The final rush into the water, on the part of Friends and boys, was an amusing spectacle.

Amongst the day's amusements we should record the raising of several balloons, which were rapidly blown away; and an exhibition on the School premises of telephones in working order, by Edwin Blakey, of Halifax.

The conclusion of the festivities consisted of an entertainment, given by the children of the School to the visitors. How true it is that in giving others pleasure we ourselves are pleased! And this gathering formed no exception to the rule. The children most thoroughly enjoyed it; and even the older Friends caught largely the contagion of their enthusiasm. We had in this meeting very eminently the "sympathy of numbers."

In entering it the struggle was as little like the usual mode of Friends coming into their meeting-houses as could well be conceived, and one who had the misfortune to wait till the scuffle was over bears witness that there seemed, after the

meeting gathered, not one square foot available, even for his head, and he was fain to betake himself to a seat outside to await the exit of some one obliged to leave early.

For some time before the Centenary Meeting the children, in their play-time, had, with the help of some of their teachers, been preparing this entertainment for Friends. The whole of the scholars were arranged in "the gallery" and front seats of the Meeting-house, Friends occupying the other seats. Originally the tent had been intended for the place of this meeting, but it was found that the children could not be heard there. The entertainment consisted of singing by the whole School at once, in which they were ably conducted by one of their teachers, Joseph Parsey, varied by capital recitations from several of the boys. Both songs and recitations were mostly composed by teachers—either now or formerly in the School. Some of the recitations were old legends of Ackworth, in verse,—all had a connection with the School.

About the middle of the entertainment the Superintendent of the School—who was the Chairman—announced that a paraphrase of "Auld Lang Syne" would be sung, that Friends alone, led by the conductor, would sing the usual chorus, and that then both Friends and children would join in a new chorus, "Should Ackworth ever be forgot?" This was readily complied with, all being *particeps criminis*, as the Chairman observed, in plain English. It was a "take in" as regards the old folks, which the children lustily cheered. We trust no one was any worse for it the next morning, and that even those who were shut out forgave it, not "letting the sun go down upon their wrath."

The programme of the entertainment was as follows :—

1. "Centennial Chorus," by J. S. R. PARSEY.
Sung by the Children.
2. "Ackworth Centenary," by J. A. BARRINGER.
Recited by P. SEWELL.
3. "The Popgun," by THOMAS HUNTON, B.A.
Recited by C. E. STANSFIELD.
4. Part Song,—“Escape from the City.”
Sung by the Children.
5. "The Lament of the Old Clock Face," by ANNA M.
ANDREWS.
Recited by G. F. ARMITAGE.
6. "Ackworth Scholars' Song," by ROBERT W. WELLS.
Sung by the Children.
7. "A Legend of Ackworth School," by CHARLES
E. SMITH.
Recited by W. WHITTEN.
8. Song,—“The Foot-traveller.”
Sung by the Children.
9. "In Memoriam—John Fothergill," by B. SCOTT.
Recited by E. S. BURROW.
10. "Auld Lang Syne," with Ackworth variations.
By the whole company.
11. "A Rat, a Rat," by CHARLES E. SMITH.
Recited by A. H. TAYLOR.
12. "Letter of a discontented Schoolboy," by THOMAS
PUPLETT.
Recited by E. B. REYNOLDS.

13. Song,—“Hasten from the busy Town.”
Sung by the Children.
14. “The Bell’s Defence,” by the late THOMAS
PUMPHREY.
Recited by CHARLES BROOKES.
15. “A Table for Schoolboys,” by JOHN MORLEY.
Recited by W. A. SALTER.
16. “Centennial Hymn,” by ROBERT W. WELLS.
Sung by the Children.
17. “New Year’s Day, 1855,” by the late THOMAS
PUMPHREY.
Recited by THEODORE TYLOR.
18. Concluding Hymn.
Sung by the Children.

After a short pause, and a few words of prayer offered by the Superintendent, the large company dispersed, and the happy children retired to bed.

There were in many hearts the echo of the last verse of the “Centennial Hymn.”

And Thou, all-gracious Father,
To whom so much we owe,
Be Thou with all Thy children
Wherever they may go ;
That Ackworth’s sons and daughters,
Spread far o’er land and sea,
May ever sing Thy praises
And render thanks to Thee.

And so, with an enthusiasm which none could shake off, finding expression outside in ringing cheers, Friends parted from each other, as carriage after carriage left the gates.

And now our task is done of recording Ackworth’s festival.

Old School of ours, thou hast been blessed with many blessings ! Thine, the long line of good men, whose teaching through the generations has seemed the echo of the Apostle's words, " Finally, . . . whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things which ye have both learned and received and heard and seen in me, do ; and the God of peace shall be with you."

May Ackworth never lack caretakers *worthy* of these !

The following Poem was distributed among the scholars immediately after the Celebration :—

SEEDTIME AND HARVEST.



The record of a Hundred Years of sowing ;—
Such is our ACKWORTH'S STORY ;—but no pen
Of mortal can indite that Chronicle ;—
And yet its hundred volumes all are writ,—
An Everlasting History. Now and then
A paragraph or section meets the eye,
Perhaps a chapter,—and we see how seed,
Sown painfully, with effort and with tears,
Hath yielded a rich harvest to the praise
Of HIM who gave the increase, and thus blessed
The faithful sower's work. Varied the fields,
And varied too the increase ; thirty-fold
Sometimes, and sometimes sixty-fold the gain ;
A hundred even, where some special good
Of soil and circumstance, of sun and shower,
Wrought to a special blessing.

ACKWORTH'S SONS

And daughters have been scattered through the land,
And there are of them whose careers have been
So public we may trace them. First in rank
We place the men and women who have filled
The highest, noblest office man can hold,—
“AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST,” the “KING OF KINGS,”

Or in their own dear land, or 'neath the palms
Of India, or in Afric's Martyr Isle.
Others with busy hands, have wrought to clothe
The naked, feed the hungry ;—with swift feet
Have visited the sick, and sought to raise
The outcast from despair ; or borne with joy,
“ The spoiling of their goods,” and some have been
“ The prisoners of the Lord ” for conscience' sake.
Others have done good service to the State ;—
Of such pre-eminent, on England's heart
And history, one name is “ written large ; ”
Her “ Tribune of the People,” whose wise words,
Truthful as eloquent, are weapons keen
In the great strife for Freedom and the Right.
And linked with him the Alpha of the LEAGUE
That freed from tax a Nation's daily bread :
While one with them in aim, was he whose pen
• Wrote to good purpose, and who served the State
In dusky India, where his ashes rest.

Nor of less value to the State their work
Who teach its children ; many such have gone
From Ackworth, and their forming touch will tell
For good, upon the England yet to be.

The wide domain of Literature hath sent
Its sheaves, full-eared and golden, by the hand
Of him who sleeps in Rome, whose vigorous pen
Death seized, ere he his loving tribute writ ;—
The pen that could with genial grace portray
The “ Rural Life of England,”—boldly write

The "History of Priestcraft," or enchain
The ear of boyhood with its country tales ;
Also by him who felt the powerful spell
Of the Italian Muse, and bade her sing
In our more rugged English ; while the Muse
Of Christian History claimed his brother's pen,
And fired his spirit to recount the deeds
Of Spain's Reformers ; and one gently sought
The Women of her country to inspire
With noblest motives and with highest aims.

From the fair fields of Science precious spoil
Hath been ingathered : one of ACKWORTH's sons
Shared in the Chatmoss victory ; and one,
With dauntless courage, and with equal skill,
Rescued from icy grasp of Arctic Seas
The helpless remnant of a hapless crew, [sprung
And brought them home. From out her ranks have
The skilled in brain and hand to bring relief
To sufferings of the flesh, or minds distraught ;
The wise in subtle chymic laws that rule
The elements ; those who through crystals clear
Revealed a world of wonder to our sight ;
Or, who, on Nature's marvellous page, have read
Creation's miracle in tree and flower.

And precious too have been the harvests reaped
In lowly fields unnumbered, all unknown
To fame, the while they yield the daily bread
Of our great Country's common, general life,
That life on which depends, and out of which

Must grow the higher, wider life of those
Who, called to special service for their kind,
Stand forth conspicuous to the general eye.

Thus ends the Century with thankfulness
For Heavenly blessing upon earthly work ;
Not only increase given to good seed,
But finite errors and mistakes o'er-ruled
By Power, and Love, and Wisdom Infinite.
So stand we on the Present, looking back
And forward,—to the Hath-been and To-Be ;
And with us two celestial visitants,
Their bright wings furled as meaning to remain
And dwell with us, sweet Gratitude and Hope.

ELIZABETH B. PRIDEAUX.

APPENDIX A.

AMONG the numerous objects belonging to Dr. Fothergill exhibited at Ackworth during the Centenary, none had more interest than a small pocket-Bible which belonged to his mother before her marriage, and respecting which there is a tradition that it was in after days the companion of her husband, John Fothergill, during his journeys in America, and made use of by him when preaching. It is now the property of William Fothergill, of Darlington. On the last fly-leaf the following inscription occurs:—

MARGARET HOUGH. Her Book,
and she was Born ye 30th day
of ye 3rd Month, 1679.

On the first page of the New Testament Dr. Fothergill's birth is recorded—

JOHN FOTHERGILL was born the 8th of 1st mo. (o.s.)
1712.

JOSEPH FOTHERGILL was born 16th of 12th mo.,
1712-13.

The Bible (small 32mo) was printed by John Field, Printer to the Parliament, 1653.

In addition to the Old and New Testaments, there is also "the whole Book of Psalms, collected into English meeters [*sic*] by Thomas Stirnhold and John Hopkins, and others, 1654."

APPENDIX B.

IN addition to the very beautiful Wedgwood bust of Dr. Fothergill, in black basalt, exhibited at the meeting—a specially fine specimen, which shows the delicacy and care taken in the execution of the mould, by the veins on the forehead, which were no doubt prominent in Dr. F.'s nervous and delicate face—Wedgwood also executed one or more very fine Cameo portraits, in white biscuit-ware on jasper (blue) grounds. One of these has been reproduced, and is well worth possessing from its intrinsic merits, and is the one from which the portrait engraved for this Memoir is copied. We are much indebted to J. Spence Hodgson, of Altrincham, for inducing the present firm of Wedgwood & Co., Etruria, to reproduce these beautiful works of art. The moulds were shown to me at the works last summer, and are as perfect as when made, nearly a century ago.

A life-size plaster bust was also exhibited at the Centenary, which was presented, with other objects of interest, to Ackworth School, by I. M. Williams, of York. This varies very materially from the Wedgwood bust, and must have been taken when Dr. F. was much younger. Although it is stated that Dr. F. would never sit for his portrait, there are many paintings and engraved likenesses extant. The Royal College of Physicians of London has a portrait in oils, taken by Hogarth, and as this artist died in 1764, it must represent the Doctor as he appeared when about

fifty years of age. There does not seem to be any clear authority for calling this a portrait of him, though it probably is so.

On the back is written—

JOHANNES FOTHERGILL, M.D., F.R.S.

Hogarth Pinxit.

Ex dono Gulielmi Cribb, 1865.

Exhibited Nat : Portrait Gallery.

There is also an oil Portrait of Dr. Fothergill in the London Medical Society's Rooms, artist unknown, and poorly executed; evidently taken in later life, if not copied after death from an engraved portrait, and very similar to the numerous engraved likenesses. There are nearly a dozen of these, of which the following are most noteworthy—

Portrait, prefixed to his Memoir by Dr. Lettsom, 1782.

Painter, R. Cosway; engraver, Bartolozzi.

Oval do., from a bust in possession of Dr. Lettsom.

(In 4th edition of Lettsom's Life.) Painter, Livesay; engraver, Bartolozzi.

Oval do., from a bust by Mr. Wright (in possession of Dr. Lettsom). Painter, C. Blackbird; engraver, John Hall. Published in "Literary Magazine," 1790.

Folio Engraving, 1781. Painter, Stewart; engraver, V. Green. Published by Stewart & Green, London.

Engraving of Dr. F., with the "Good Samaritan" underneath. Engraved by Cook.

Another was published in Dr. Lettsom's "Hints on Benevolence."

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